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22 June 1982

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STUDY SHOWS 19.5 PERCENT LOSS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 17 May 82 p 11-A

[Article by Jose Guillermo Herrera]

[Text] Medellin, 10 May -- About 19.5 percent of the energy generated by Colombian power plants is lost because of the obsolescence of production, transmission and distribution equipment and because of fraud and illicit hookups [contrabandos] on the part of consumers, according to a study ordered by the Electric Distribution Company [ISA].

The losses, broken down into "white losses" and "black losses," were reduced to percentages at the end of a prolonged investigation involving all the companies in the Colombian electric sector, particularly in the capital cities.

On the basis of annual investment rates in the sector, if losses are minimized, the country will gain 6 months of growth in its generation system which costs about 15 billion pesos.

The general manager of ISA, German Jaramillo Olano, considers the study to be "of enormous importance because it shows that the Colombian system loses a little over 19 percent of the electrical energy generated by its power plants." Then, with the announcement of the development of a "master plan for distribution," he said that by combining this plan with the recommendations of the investigation now being evaluated by his technicians, over the mid term important correction would be made.

Jaramillo Olano explained that these losses were broken down into "white losses" of 12 percent which are inherent in the equipment and installations themselves during generation, transmission and distribution and "black losses" of 7.5 percent which are caused by the unpaid usage of electricity, whether from fraud or illicit hookups.

"There is a tremendous difference among electric companies as regards both kinds of losses," he said. "There are electric companies which have very small losses in their system and very big losses from illicit hookups. There are other companies which have very small losses from illicit hookups and very big losses in their systems."

The ISA manager said that these differences show that things can be done well if there is a desire to do so, with time devoted to correcting problems in distribution and domestic supplies through legalization of the outlying areas of the big cities.

Jaramillo Olano estimated that since it is entirely feasible to reduce losses in the electric sector by one-fourth, Colombia would gain one-half year of growth without additional investment by improving the transmission and distribution systems.

"looking at it from the standpoint of what expansion would be worth to us at this time," he said, "we could say that in a half year we are losing very close to 15 billion pesos."

Although he acknowledged that the so-called "white losses" cannot be reduced to zero, as any wire or piece of equipment heats up when it receives electric current and there is a loss, for the most part such losses are attributable to the "overloading of installations" in the areas of distribution and secondary distribution transformers because of their age and inability to accept the load. "Therefore, if we improve these distribution networks, if we increase transformation capacity, we will be able to reduce losses considerably."

Information about current losses in the Colombian electricity sector was obtained from rather exhaustive samplings of a large number of circuits of the country's electric companies, with the pinpointing of the number of installations served in the region and readings of meters and, finally, comparison of these readings with the power substation meter which totals the electricity delivered to its area of coverage in 1 month.

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CSO: 3010/1617

LESTER BIRD PROPOSES CARICOM TALKS ON REGIONAL DEFENSE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 May 82 p 3

[Text]

LONDON Monday (CANA) — Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird today said that he has written to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government urging a discussion on the establishment of a regional defence capability at their next meeting.

CARICOM leaders have not met since 1975, but member countries have been trying to get a meeting convened before the end of this year.

Mr. Bird told politicians and businessmen at a dinner hosted by the British telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless, that failure to set up a regional defence force would lay the region open to military adventurism by larger and more powerful nations.

But he said it was to be deeply regretted that countries in the area should have to consider spending any portion of their limited financial resources on armaments.

Such funds were more ideally suited for investment in social and economic development, he said.

Mr. Bird said: "In my view, nothing threatens world peace and security more than the ceaseless spending on arms which has now reached the astronomical figure of \$650 billion.

"That the peaceful states of the Caribbean should be forced to so misuse scarce financial resources is cause for sadness," he added.

He said that in seeking to establish a defence capability, Commonwealth Caribbean countries should look to their

friends, particularly Britain, for assistance.

Britain could aid the region in its defence within a Commonwealth framework in the same way Commonwealth countries helped rehabilitate the Ugandan army with financial and technical resources, he remarked.

"In providing us with assistance to defend ourselves, Britain would not only fulfil a Caribbean need: she would also render a service in the cause of international stability," the Deputy Prime Minister declared.

Mr. Bird said security was made a priority to Caribbean nations since the Falklands (Malvinas) crisis in the South Atlantic. Britain and Argentina are fighting over the islands

CARICOM NEWSLETTER LISTS INDUSTRY ALLOCATIONS BY NATION

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 May 82 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Monday (CANA) — The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has agreed to limit practice board furniture manufacture to Trinidad and Tobago under its industries allocation programme, according to a CARICOM newsletter.

Trinidad and Tobago was also allocated the urea-formaldehyde resin industry, one of 16 distributed among CARICOM countries during a recent meeting in Dominica.

Caricom Industry Minister had reported the distribution of industries included sea island cotton (for Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat), and prefabricated houses (Guyana, Belize, Dominica).

The projects allocated in the region total US\$50 million.

Allocation of others in the 12-nation community has been deferred, pending further study of information to determine choice of location, the newsletter said.

Following is a list of the industries allocated and the countries benefitting:

— Particle board, urea-formaldehyde resin— Trinidad and Tobago.

— Prefabricated houses— Guyana, Belize, Dominica.

— Food processing— Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia.

— Ply wood— Guyana, Belize, Dominica.

— Chemical lime— Antigua.

— Ballast for lamps— Guyana.

— Power poles— Belize, Jamaica, Guyana.

— Railwood sleepers— Belize, Jamaica, Guyana.

— Sea island cotton— Antigua, Montserrat.

— Wooden furniture— Dominica, Grenada.

Snacks— All Less Developed Countries (LDCs)

— Table pedestal lamps— Belize, Guyana.

— Doors and sashes— Guyana, Dominica.

— Honey and bees wax— All countries and

Wood fibre— Guyana.

VENEZUELA PROTESTS 'ATTACK' BY TRINIDAD-TOBAGO PATROL BOAT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 1

[Article by Ed Wynn Brant]

[Text]

THE VENEZUELAN Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a strongly worded protest note to the Minister of External Affairs, Dr Basil Ince, over an incident in which the crews of three Guiria-based fishing boats said they were beaten by members of a Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard patrol boat in the Gulf of Paria.

The note was handed to the Ministry last Wednesday by Venezuelan ambassador in Port-of-Spain, Dr. Ignacio Silva Sucre.

The Venezuelans are also awaiting Trinidad and Tobago's version of the incident which they said took place last May 11 when two boats — "Dos Amigos" and "El Deseado" were picked up for fishing outside Chacachacare island.

The crew of the two vessels said they were picked up by patrol boat CG 25 whose officers boarded the vessels and seized personal property and dumped their catches.

The men told investigators in Guiria that they were picked up about 11 a.m. and taken to Port-of-Spain where they were freed.

The patrol boat escorted the "Dos Amigos" and "El Deseado" out of Trinidad's waters into territorial waters of Venezuela.

While on the return trip to Stauble, the CG 25 intercepted the "Esperanza Mia" which suffered the same fate.

According to reports from Caracas, the captain of the Esperanza was badly beaten and is still in hospital in Curaupano nursing several broken ribs and a gash to the forehead.

Mrs. Annette Auguste, this country's ambassador in Caracas, summoned to "Casa Amarilla," head office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital on May 14, denied the accusations and told the Ministry that the information was false — the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard did not attack any of the fishing boats named.

BRIEFS

BARBADOS-JAMAICA TRADE--Bridgetown, Fri., (Cana)--The Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA) Wednesday said it was looking to Jamaica to open its market to more products from this island and other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member countries. "When countries in the Caricom region can have an import bill of well over 1.5 billion (TT\$3.6 billion) from extra-regional countries and find it difficult to purchase (US) 18 million (TT \$43.2 million) worth of goods from Barbados or (US) 45 million (TT \$108 million) from Caricom partners then something is wrong some way, first vice-president of the BMA, Basil Forbes told newsmen. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 82 p 6]

CSO: 3025/10

BIRD CITICIZES BRITAIN FOR INADEQUATE LEVELS OF AID

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 82 p 5

[Text]

LONDON, Tues., (Can):
DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER of Antigua and
Barbuda, Lester Bird, has
criticised reduced levels of
aid to the Caribbean from
Britain, and also called on
Whitehall to agree to easier
terms in funding
development projects in
the Caribbean.

He told politicians and
businessmen yesterday
that reduced British aid
and the new conditions for
assistance threatened to
weaken democratically-
elected Governments in the
Caribbean.

"Our Governments work
assiduously to maintain and
improve the quality of life
in the Caribbean, but we
cannot do it alone. We need
assistance," Mr. Bird said.

"However, such assist-
ance is not forthcoming
when Britain reduces the
level of her aid, and ties the
residue in stringent per-
formance requirements
which we cannot satisfy,"
he added.

"In these circumstances,
Britain must be mindful
that her actions weaken
the strength of democrati-
cally-elected Governments
and contribute to making
the Caribbean susceptible
to other interests."

Her aid economic
development was the heart
of Caribbean concern, and
the stability of the region,
already affected by
restlessness among youth,
could be further threatened
if high unemployment levels
did not drop.

"...It is a worrying
development, for
unemployment levels in the
region now average 20 per
cent, and a recent World
Bank report indicates that
if the present trend con-
tinues, these levels could
reach 30 to 40 per cent
throughout the Caribbean
over the next ten years,"
Mr. Bird said.

Such a situation would
bring with it intoler-
able social and economic
strains that would find
expression in political
action, a breakdown of
the social order and even
violence, he stated.

The Deputy Prime
Minister said that instead
of tying its aid to specific
projects, Britain should
heed the advice of the
Brandt Commission on
international development
issues, and make provision
for funds to be used flexibly.

He said Caribbean
countries, faced with
a critical balance of pay-
ments deficit on current
accounts, needed urgent
attention and programme
lending.

"The long-term support
of programme loans would
assist Caribbean territories
to build-up their social
infrastructure,
administration and
management...", he said.

BIRD DISCOURSES ON RICH, POOR NATIONS' ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 May 82 p 11

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Sunday, (CANA) — Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, has said here that the world appears to have shut its ears to understanding and peace has become a safely locked away cliché which once a year is trotted out, dusted off and given a new polish in lengthy speeches in the United Nations General Assembly.

He said that after the rhetoric of peace is over the people of the world are left with the reality that there can be no peace if in the space of one year spending on arms to establish one nation's military supremacy over another rises from US \$500 million to US \$650 million.

"There can be no peace if 800 million people live in absolute poverty and misery while one-quarter of the world's population wantonly exploits more than three-quarters of the world's wealth to live without want and without care," Mr. Bird declared.

"The world totters closely to the brink of such an eventuality even now, for the poor are becoming poorer with very little faith left in the process of international discussion which has become nothing more than a dialogue of the deaf, mouths open, but no words are heard. An ominous theatre of stony silence stages one tragic play after another.

"The characters are type cast. On the one hand the poor plead for markets to sell their

products. The rich respond that the products do not satisfy the market requirements. The poor urge better prices for their production.

"The poor beg for aid. The rich retort that the poor lack absorptive capacity to utilise aid. After the curtain falls and the plays have ended, much has happened and nothing has changed."

Mr. Bird noted that, forced into the hands of commercial banks to finance basic needs at high rates of interest, developing states ended 1981 with a deficit of \$72 billion.

"In an atmosphere of unresponsiveness to pleas for urgent aid and assistance, developing states had no choice but to incur huge debts for their was no other way to satisfy their peoples legitimate claim for a better quality of life," Mr. Bird said. It required no sacrifice, no blood or sweat for armchair politicians to criticise developing countries for large scale borrowing, he added.

But it was through such borrowing that countries had produced health care for the sick, help for the needy and schools for children, he pointed out.

The alternatives to borrowing are rigidly direct spending in the productive sector at the expense of social services in which the poor will suffer or to spend on social services at the expense of development with the result that ultimately there will be

no money to spend on social services," he said.

The third alternative was for developed states which benefit from their relationship with poor countries to assist them to remain viable through concessionary loans and direct grants.

"The United States, for instance, enjoyed a balance of trade surplus with the Eastern Caribbean of \$245 million in 1981," he noted. That money provided jobs, social welfare, health care and education in the United States.

The Deputy Prime Minister

asked if this was not sufficient reason for the United States to contribute to the well-being of the Eastern Caribbean.

"It is right that the United States should be interested in peace and stability in the Caribbean. We share that interest because we are in the Caribbean and when it is not peaceful, when it is not stable, we are the casualties of its eruptions," Mr. Bird said.

He noted that it was important for the people of the

Caribbean to understand that a prerequisite to peace was economic development, "for hunger spawns anger."

"That the rich countries of the world fulfil a responsibility to themselves by helping the poor is an immutable fact and no longer a

consumption devoutly to be wished. To ignore the reality of the inter-dependence of states is to sanction even greater poverty in poor states and ultimately a drastic decline in the living standards of the better developed nations. "In such circumstances not only will the world be unable to sustain peace, but even peaceful development will prove to be elusive."

".....by prohibiting Third World exports to their markets, the developed countries raise their own cost of living. As one example, the effect of protectionism in the United States market between 1975 and 1977 resulted in extra costs to consumers of US 1660 million for sugar alone."

CSO: 3025/311

COUNTRY SECTION

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO CARICOM--St John's Wed., (Cana)--Antigua and Barbuda which gained independence from Britain last November, has appointed its first High Commissioner to Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries. The diplomat, Oscar Henry, will be accredited to Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/311

VANGUARD PARTY PRESENTS POLICY VIEWS, CANDIDATE SKETCHES

Candidate Biographies

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 May 82 p 1

[Text]

AN AGRONOMIST, a former police officer and a staff manager for a major insurance company are among the 18 Vanguard candidates standing for the June 10 general elections.

The Vanguard Nationalist and Socialist Party is a ten-year-old socialist political organization led by former Purdue University political science professor Dr John McCartney (candidate for St Michaels).

Biographical sketches of three of the party's candidates were released Friday by party officials.

Maurice Brooks, 37, the party's candidate for Bamboo Town, presently is British Fidelity Insurance Company's Staff Manager. A former registered nurse at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Brooks studied at Abraham's Bay Public School, Mayaguana, and later attended the Government High School Evening Institute.

He attended Shawnee College, Oklahoma and

Louisiana State University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Chemistry.

Brooks says that his entry into the electoral arena as the Vanguard's standard bearer in Bamboo Town is due to his strong commitment to building a socialist Bahamas. He sees this election as furthering that process.

Louis Symonette is the Vanguard's 28-year-old candidate for the Fox Hill constituency. A graduate of St Augustine's College, Fox Hill, he studied geology at St Thomas College, St Paul, Minnesota, and agronomy at Penn State University.

He has worked at Wong's Printing and Rubber Stamp and as a cameraman and darkroom technician. He has served at BARTAD in Andros and with the Ministry of Works. Symonette has, in his professional capacity, conducted geological studies of Andros and Long Island for the

Ministry of Works.

"As a student, Symonette was a political activist in the struggle for black rights, women's rights and in the struggle to promote the right of Third World countries to gain control of their destinies," a Vanguard party release said.

Basil Sands, another 28-year-old activist, is the Vanguard's candidate for the Ft Fincastle constituency. A former police officer, he attended Aquinas College, the Freeport Evening Institute and the C R Walker Technical College, where he did electronics.

"As a policeman, Sands says he was exposed to the evils of the capitalist system and the lack of justice for the poor man. Accordingly, he advocates a system of justice 'which makes it impossible for wealth to buy immunity,'" the release said.

Sands says that the jails today "are filled mainly with poor and working men and women, while the rich can afford the lawyers to remain at liberty."

Policy Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 May 82 pp 1, 11

[Text]

VANGUARD Leader Dr John McCartney said in a national broadcast last night his party will institute far-reaching socialist changes, including income tax, checks and balances, local government and a restructuring of the educational system.

Addressing the nation in his 15-minute, paid political speech over Radio Bahamas, Dr McCartney, Vanguard candidate for St Michael's, dispelled some major misconceptions "and even lies" about a socialist philosophy.

Dr McCartney, a former political science professor at Purdue University, USA, was one of three leaders of major parties contesting the June 10 general elections to give their party political speeches over ZNS last night.

Also speaking over Radio Bahamas were Free National Movement Chairman Cecil V Wallace Whitfield and Prime Minister Lynden Pindling of the governing Progressive Liberal Party.

In his address, Dr McCartney urged the Bahamian electorate to support the party and its 18 candidates in the elections using the Vanguard campaign slogan: "Bring in the new in '82."

He also declared that the Bahamas is a depressed and privileged society on the verge of total collapse and called the strength of the PLP and FNM "an illusion" as they have no programmes to offer the people.

"We will institute a graduated income tax, where those who make more pay more, to guarantee that Government exerts maximum control over economic planning," he said. "We will take care to preserve both investment and individual rights in the process."

He also said that a system of checks and balances would be introduced in the Bahamian political system, with the

people having the right to recall MP's at any time, "by a recall election."

"We will also institute a local government system with representatives elected to carry out tasks that affect the people

in specific localities," he added. "They will also be subject to recall."

Dr McCartney said that the party will establish higher education and training complexes of high quality in the country to which all will have access.

"In these institutions all our people will be given skills and the jobs to practice those skills on graduating," he said. "With easy access to higher education for all, the relationship between political favour and education, which is killing the learning in this country, will cease."

"Finally," the Vanguard Leader said "we will restructure the educational system in this country so that Bahamians will be politically educated, and exposed to the finest of all the world's cultures."

He said this would create a more humane and educated Bahamian, who can make the country a model of the good life for other countries to follow, "and where many of the humane and Christian principles we talk about so much, can be put into practice."

"It should be pointed out that the United States, the world's largest capitalist country, has adopted most of

the just mentioned procedures," Dr McCartney said.

Touching briefly on the major misconceptions about socialism used to try to discredit the Vanguard in the eyes of the people, Dr McCartney said it is a "blatant lie" that the party will throw local and foreign investors out of the country.

"When the Vanguard comes to power, it will plan the economy, so that the needs and aspirations of our people will determine what is done in the country.

"We will plan what is needed to build a farming industry, a fishing industry, a university complex; all designed to elevate the lives of all our people," he said.

"Within this context investments of all kinds will be encouraged, and we will sign the kind of agreements that insure the investor a fair share and the country a fair share."

He said that with public scrutiny and discussion of all projects being a hallmark of a Vanguard government, "we are certain that we can create a more healthy, equalitarian and stable atmosphere for investment than either the PLP or FNM."

He said that a second "misconception" has it that the Vanguard will take away one car or home if people have two homes or two cars.

"In fact the Vanguard wants you to have even better homes, more cars, and will work with the banking system to insure the kinds of opportunities to make them available to you," he said.

What people have spent their lives working for must be protected and not taken away, he said, pointing out that socialist parties like the Vanguard have recently been elected in France and Greece without any record of taking away people's private property.

"No. They control, not necessarily own, I should point out, the means of production

.... the banks, factories, major investment complexes, etc. to insure that the welfare of the oppressed majority and investors are served," he said.

In short, Dr McCartney said, houses, cars and private property are means of consumption and not production.

Finally, he called a "lie" a charge that the Vanguard is against religion saying the party supports the Bahamian people's right to worship whatever religion they please.

"In fact, some of our leading members are extremely active church people, who have joined the Vanguard because its goals are consistent with Christ's call for love and equality.

"A love and equality which is at the centre of the socialist teaching. In fact, these comrades always say that Christ was a socialist," Dr McCartney said.

He said that the 11-year-old Vanguard was formed to bring back the wealth of the society to the masses and create democratic institutions in which the people can actually control and run the society which is the overriding concern of the socialist philosophy.

"That is why, unlike the Free National Movement or the Progressive Liberal Party, the Vanguard Party is proud to call itself a socialist party. We see this captioning and ideology as testament to our commitment to the people," he said.

The Bahamian people, he said, have been enslaved and exploited for hundreds of years, including the last fifteen.

ELECTIONEERING CONTINUES; PINDLING, ISAACS CAMPAIGN

FNM Strength in South

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 May 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Excerpts] Colonel Hill, Crooked Island--The Free National Movement completed a highly successful tour of the southern Bahamas here yesterday where they received a resounding vote of approval in two key constituencies.

After the mammoth motorcade in Inagua and the standing-room-only rallies in Acklins and again here, it seems unlikely that the PLP's incumbents in those areas T. Joe Ford and Wilbert Moss, will retain their seats.

Voters in the southern Bahamas are in large numbers openly identifying with the FNM despite the "victimisation and intimidation" they invariably face should the PLP win the election.

Opposition to the PLP in these areas has been likened to a peaceful uprising, especially the show of solidarity at Inagua. Mr Ford barely got a handful of people--many of them being family and friends whom he brought from Nassau--to his meeting Wednesday night. The FNM that night packed the school house.

In Acklins especially, and Crooked Island, the population has decreased rapidly during Mr Moss, 5-year tenure due to lack of economic activity. Many once thriving settlements are now ghost towns. Houses have been battened; people gone.

The air landing strip in Acklins is a part of the main road in Pinefield that was widened a bit. Due to lack of care, that landing strip is severely pot-holed. Moreover, the bushes have threatened to reclaim the land.

Public buildings are falling apart.

Clinics here are few and far between and reportedly they are always short of necessary drugs. In the southern Bahamas there is no such thing as running water and public electricity supply is still very much in the future.

From the show of support in Acklins and Crooked Island, it appears that the majority of people here are going to reject Wilbert Moss. They are rallying behind the FNM's Paul Moss. The crowd that packed the Lovely Bay school Thursday is said to be an indication of that.

Mayaguana always supported candidates in opposition to the PLP. The people there complained bitterly to FNM leader Kendal Isaacs that it was Inagua voters who put T. Joe Ford in Parliament.

Inagua on Wednesday night erased all doubts as to where its support lies. A mammoth motorcade and a robust standing-room only meeting in Mathew Town supported the FNM's candidate Vernon 'Vernie' Symonette. Even Mr Isaacs was surprised at the turnout.

It was pleasing to Mr Isaacs that FNM supporters in the southern islands, unlike many supporters in New Providence, are prepared to come out openly. In Mr Isaacs' words: "I feel assured. As far as Mayaguana and Inagua are concerned, I am pleased. I am confident."

Eight months ago FNM supporters from Inagua and Mayaguana asked the party to nominate Vernon Symonette. Being from Inagua he is loved by the young and old of this twin-island constituency. "When he decided to be the candidate, that was it," Mr Isaacs said.

Before coming to Acklins and Crooked Island, Mr Isaacs said he was confident from all the reports he had that the FNM was going to win this triple-island constituency. The other island is Long Cay.

"Certainly the meeting we had in lovely Bay (Thursday night) confirmed what I felt," Mr Isaacs said. "Leon McKinney says it's chalk. He has never lost an election. Our candidates are going to be successful."

Pindling Broadcast

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Ma7 82 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Lynden Pindling in a paid political broadcast last night accused the business community of "trying to bring the Government down" by encouraging unemployment.

Mr Pindling, who faces his toughest election battle in his 15 years as Prime Minister, also accused "the rich merchants who control the Chamber of Commerce" of using their "economic power" as a "political weapon."

And, he said it's drugs - not unemployment - that is responsible for the country's growing crime problem.

Mr Pindling told listeners in his 15-minute broadcast that a "fundamental error" the PLP Government made initially was to over-emphasize merchandising and under-emphasize producing.

"As a consequence, we find that although the wealthy members of the Chamber of Commerce have benefitted considerably from our efforts, they have re-invested little in production enterprises which make work and create jobs," he said.

And he described crime and unemployment as "two dark clouds (that) cast a shadow over an otherwise blue sky."

Mr Pindling said unemployment was a worldwide problem which even the "three great English-speaking democracies" - Canada, the United States and United Kingdom - are experiencing.

"I am convinced, however, that we would have made greater progress with unemployment if the rich merchants who control the Chamber of Commerce were not using their economic power as a political weapon," he said.

"I have taken note that the Chamber of Commerce has published a so-called poll of its members' opinions which forecasts wide-spread unemployment if the PLP wins.

"This is nothing but another threat exactly like the ones they have been using even before today's voter was born. But the game is wearing thin," Mr Pindling warned.

He said everybody realizes that the Government is doing all it can to stimulate unemployment.

"They also realize it is the business community which is encouraging unemployment by refusing to hire people in the futile hope that they will bring down the Government," he claimed.

"Let's face it, the Opposition stands to gain politically from unemployment. There was no political benefit to the Government in keeping people out of work."

Mr Pindling then went on to say that "we stand on the threshold of a commercial and industrial explosion, the likes we've never known."

He said his Government would implement new educational programmes for technical and vocational training for young people and that emphasis would be placed on factories which will make and produce things.

Emphasis will be placed on fisheries and training, he said. There will be expanded social and sports services and a drug abuse programme would be developed.

Answering FNM charges that the high unemployment was responsible for the country's growing crime problem, Mr Pindling said court records show "case after case" in which employed persons earning a good living end up before the judge.

"Some politicians, out of ignorance or malice, have linked crime with unemployment. They say crime is due to unemployment and poverty and since the Government has caused both, we have created crime ..."

"I have been forced to accept that the single strongest factor contributing to crime in the Bahamas is drugs," Mr Pindling said.

Challenge to Voting Rule

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 May 82 p 1

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement has filed a writ in the Supreme Court challenging Government's claim that persons who have changed their constituencies after March 31 can have their names transferred and can vote in the new constituency.

The writ was filed yesterday in response to the Parliamentary Registrar's announcement May 14 that any person who had registered before the March 31 deadline, but had moved to a new constituency could have his name transferred to the voters list in the new constituency and vote there.

On May 3, Bahamas Information Services announced that "any voter who, for more than six months, has been resident in a different constituency from that in which he was registered and had failed to have his registration transferred before April 1, 1982, will be ineligible to vote in any constituency in the general election (June 10)."

On May 14 the Parliamentary Registration Department corrected this

statement and said that every person who was registered by March 31, 1982 will be entitled to vote on June 10. Also that:

"Any person whose name was or is transferred from one constituency to another shall be entitled to vote. That any person who has moved, but has not yet applied to have his registration transferred may still apply to be transferred from the constituency in which he was registered to the constituency in which he now resides."

"And any person who has moved (after Dec 10, 1981) from the constituency in which he is registered may still vote in that constituency if he does not wish to transfer to the constituency in which he now resides."

"We are not trying to disfranchise anybody who has the right to vote, but to prevent the Parliamentary Registrar from making transferrals at this late hour," an FNM spokesman said today.

The writ was filed yesterday by Mr Orville Turnquest, the FNM treasurer and candidate for Montagu. Mr Turnquest named himself as the plaintiff and the Parliamentary Registrar was named as the defendant.

The writ seeks:

(1) - A Declaration that only those persons who are on the register of voters in a constituency as at 31st March, 1982 shall be entitled to vote in that constituency at the election to be held in that constituency on 10th June, 1982.

(2) - A Declaration that any person who is on the register of voters in a constituency as at the 31st March, 1982 but who has moved into another constituency shall not be entitled to vote at any polling division in that other constituency in which he may now reside at the election to be held in that other constituency on 10th June, 1982.

(3) - An Injunction restraining the Parliamentary Registrar, the Deputy Parliamentary Registrar or other person who is authorised to act on his behalf from registering, transferring to or in any way causing to be placed on the register of voters in any polling division in any constituency for the purpose of the election on 10th June, 1982 any person who was not on the register of voters in that polling division in that constituency on the 31st March, 1982.

Eleuthera FNM Turnout

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 May 82 pp 1, 12

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

ROCK SOUND, Eleuthera: What was described as the largest open show of support for the Opposition south Eleuthera has ever demonstrated since the PLP came to power, turned out yesterday to greet Free National Movement leader Kendal Isaacs.

In a welcome reminiscent of last week's Inagua tour, an enthusiastic crowd of about 200, rhyming FNM slogans to the beat of junkanoo music, met Mr Isaacs and his team at the airport and took them on an impressive motorcade through the towns of Rock Sound and Tarpum Bay.

People turned out in large numbers along the way to cheer on the candidacy of the FNM's Dr David Sands. He lost

badly to the PLP's James Moultrie in a by-election two years ago.

Today the situation seems reversed.

Mr Isaacs was saying hello to a crowd of supporters in Tarpum Bay. "I know some of you are afraid of being victimised because you support us..."

"No! No! No!" shouted the gathering.

And, as one lady explained. "Everybody says they don't care if they lose their jobs, they are ready for it. The people are tired of being victimised."

The fall off in tourism has greatly affected this resort island. Guest houses and hotels including the popular Cape Eleuthera resort have closed. Those who have packed up and gone don't know if they'll be back again.

CSO: 3025/312

ADAMS DEFENDS EMERGENCY POWERS BILL, TOUGH NEW LAWS

Remarks to House

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 May 82 p 1

[Text] Tough new law enforcement legislation can be expected in Barbados later this year or next year.

Prime Minister Mr Tom Adams told the House of Assembly yesterday that in due course Government will take to Parliament a Bill dealing with explosives and ammunition.

This measure, he said, had formed part of a Draft Emergency Powers Bill which he had received in November 1976 and of which he introduced an amended version yesterday in the Lower Chamber.

The Prime Minister revealed that Government was also conceptualising a Bill on the unauthorised tapping of telephones as well as another dealing with privacy.

He said the measures were part of the process of modernising the laws of the country along with other Bills on law enforcement which will be dealt with when the Attorney-General Mr Louis Tull returns to the island.

His remarks were made amid unusually tight Police security around Parliament as he introduced the controversial Emergency Powers Act which seeks "to make better provision for the public safety and defence of Barbados during a period of public emergency."

The Bill has been opposed by some sections of the community, particularly trade unions, which have claimed that it would erode some of their basic rights as enshrined in the country's Constitution.

Mr Adams termed the Bill "mild and straightforward," noting that emergency legislation was always an exciting matter for an Opposition.

However, he added, nobody could think that a country could get along without emergency legislation, citing the need for provisions to deal with examples such as a person entering the hospital and shutting off the electricity thereby causing the deaths of those on life-support systems.

He said nobody could believe that civil disorder could not transcend what was destructive.

Mr Adams gave as examples a number of Caribbean countries which have had to make use of emergency powers in order to deal with situations which have developed but which could not have been dealt with under the Common Law.

He also spoke of countries outside the region in which such powers were used during a time of trade union intransigence, using Great Britain as an example.

However, he insisted that Government was not against trade unions and would not be dealing with them "with a sledge-hammer."

The Prime Minister said that for people to accuse the Barbados Labour Party, which has remained stable under a lot of confusion of wanting to curtail the civil liberties of people, would mean that those people did not know what they were talking about.

He added that a country must have emergency powers which must reflect the situation of the country as it develops, noting that Barbados has had a Constitution for 16 years, but no laws to bring the situation up-to-date with the Constitution.

Mr Adams said that the BLP did not come to oppress anybody since it was not the party's style, but it had come to govern, which it would do. He felt that Government was unlikely to face an emergency generated by the Opposition or any trade union since there were wise heads prevailing in the Democratic Labour Party which would not allow it to become a revolutionary party like that of Mr Patrick John in Dominica.

The Prime Minister said the new Bill does not extend the emergency powers but limits them and defines them very clearly. The Bill, he added, was as much a protection for the Opposition as it was for the Government.

He charged that opposition to the modification of the Bill was being led by "a psychotic paranoid personality" and said he was appalled to see Barbados reduced to the ranks of the disturbed and confused state of those islands which could not make economic progress.

Nonetheless, he believed that the Bill could not have any effect on the political fortunes of the Barbados Labour Party, pointing out that there was no doubt that there would be a little Sidney-Alleyne or a little Patrick John in the 1990s or at the turn of the century and some Government may find that it needs the power to detain somebody or protect somebody.

He said the DLP would not repeal the Bill if it came to power as a matter of commonsense since for 15 years it had not touched the Act as amended in 1955.

BWU Criticism

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 May 82

[Text] The Executive Council of the Barbados Workers' Union has denounced Government's Emergency Powers Bill, terming it "iniquitous," and called for its immediate withdrawal.

It endorsed a Resolution at a meeting yesterday at Unity House, Roebuck Street, which charged that sections of the proposed Act were designed to intimidate workers.

The Resolution read: "Whereas the Government of Barbados proposes to enact legislation entitled the Emergency Powers Act, 1982 which had its first reading in the House of Assembly on May 10, 1982;

"And whereas, the Government is proposing to delete the provision in the existing Emergency Powers Act, 1939 which permits workers the right to strike and peacefully persuade persons to take part in a strike during a period of emergency;

"And whereas sections of the proposed Act are designed to intimidate workers and prevent them from pursuing lawful industrial action by imposing heavy fines and long terms of imprisonment;

"Be it resolved that the Executive Council of the Barbados Workers' Union denounces this proposed iniquitous legislation and calls upon the Government to withdraw it immediately."

NUPW Opposition

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 May 82 p 1

[Text] Another union has come out against Government's proposed Emergency Powers Legislation.

This time it is the National Union of Public Workers which has given four main reasons for objecting to the bill, adding that it did not see "Barbadians irrespective of political persuasion and irrespective of their station in life sitting back and allowing the Government to impose provisions for their detention in a place determined and decided upon by any Minister of Government."

Its reasons for objecting to the bill are: it reduces the liberties and fundamental human rights of the citizens of Barbados; it is of the view that adequate legislation already exists for dealing with threats to public safety which conceivably can arise.

The NUPW added thirdly, "the bill proposes to elevate a Minister of Government in extremely important legal and constitutional circumstances to the status of a senior judge by way of allowing him to acquiesce or reject the recommendations of the proposed Review Tribunal.

"Finally, the NUPW is of the view that the entire resources of the Government should be utilised toward relieving the country of the pressing economic, social and administrative problems facing us," the union stated.

The NUPW's criticism of the proposed legislation follows severe criticism levelled against the bill by the Barbados Workers Union, the Barbados Industrial and General Workers Union and the National United Workers Union of Barbados.

The public sector union sector said "it is the responsibility of everyone including the Church to tangibly and forcefully demonstrate their resistance to the proposed measures."

NUPW's executive is meeting tomorrow night to discuss the matter while its council will also deal with the proposed bill on Thursday night.

PPM Protest

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 May 82 p 1

[Text] The small but vocal People's Pressure Movement yesterday staged a demonstration march from Eagle Hall to the City to demonstrate its protest against the proposed Emergency Powers Bill.

Party leader Eric Sealy gave a lengthy address at the end of the march during which he was severely critical of the Bill and urged all Barbadians to protest against it.

A number of people were on hand to hear Sealy attack the proposed Bill, which has also come under attack from the official Opposition Democratic Labour Party and the island's trade unions.

In the Theo Greaves picture below PPM leader, Sealy (in track suit) shakes a well wisher's hand following his meeting.

Further BWU Charges

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 May 82 p 2

[Text] Barbados once more is reintroducing forced labour through Government's proposed Emergency Powers Act.

This charge has been made in a special weekend edition of The Unionist, organ of the Barbados Workers' Union.

It added that under the proposed Act, in an emergency, people could be forced to do work without any rights about compensation for so doing.

"A refusal to carry out work during an emergency can result in a fine of \$5 000 or 12 months in prison," The Unionist said, "but an employer's property that is taken away will be subject to compensation."

The BWU conceded that all countries need to have Emergency Powers legislation, pointing out that Barbados has had such legislation from 1931 which has been modified several times subsequently.

However, it pointed out, the new legislation was only a cleverly disguised attempt at controlling the trade union movement.

"A party with a full majority can use the Bill to keep a state of emergency going for 13 months if trade unions decided to go on strike in support of wages claims and brought out their divisions in support of such a strike," the BWU said.

The refusal to retain the proviso allowing strikes and peaceful persuasion of people to strike was an indication of the real purpose of the Bill, the union charged.

It noted that the Bill will become permanent legislation and will go a long way in casting a threat over the trade union movement and should therefore be given serious study by all members of the movement.

In placing a great deal of authority in the hands of individuals, for example, the Governor-General and a Minister, much depends on the character of the individual, the union said, noting that the constituted Parliament of the land has little effective check on these individuals.

"The Bill therefore needs to be amended in such a way as to guarantee trade unions all those rights which they retained in existing legislation," the BWU suggested.

The union noted that in 1939, after a lengthy debate in the House of Assembly in which the late Grantley (later Sir Grantley) Adams spearheaded the attack on the Emergency Powers Bill, he stated:

"This Act in England exempted from its purview a proper ordinary strike. It specially contains a section to that effect which I note had been omitted from this Bill."

"This Bill before the House takes in transport and fuel. If there is a lawful strike of busmen in this colony, this Act can be invoked by the Governor."

"If the busmen in Bridgetown strike, the Governor may declare that a state of emergency exists....a bus strike in Bridgetown is of necessity a bus strike all over the island, therefore you are telling the bus drivers and conductors, 'You dare not strike. If you strike, you can go to gaol under the order of the Governor.'"

The BWU said that was the same powers the present Emergency Powers Bill was seeking to give the Government by this circuitous route, and the trade union was now being asked to accept it as if nothing has happened.

Nonetheless, it pointed out that the then senior member for the City, Mr H.A. Vaughan, moved that this proviso--"Provided also that nothing in this Act or any Orders made thereunder shall make it an offence for any person or persons to take part in a strike"--which was accepted without division.

The BWU said it could not see the Bill other than as a measure designed to strike at the hearts of the workers of Barbados and place them in a worse position than they were in 1799 when the Combination Act was enacted in the United Kingdom and it was impossible to have trade union laws in Barbados.

What was evident, it said, was that the Bill was shrouded with elements to intimidate the workers and the trade union by the threat of astronomical fines that would put the jail doors in the faces of the workers immediately.

It is felt that a fine of \$1 500 or six months in prison, or \$5 000 or 12 months imprisonment were penalties which were meant to inject fear and intimidation.

"We therefore ask: can anyone believe that such a measure is passed as an ordinary Emergency Powers Bill when we already have an Emergency Powers Act on the statute books?"

CSO: 3025/313

TULL IN TV PRESS CONFERENCE, ELECTION IN GRENADA A MUST

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 82 p 5

[Text] Bridgetown, Tues., (Cana)--Barbados said yesterday that the holding of general elections in Grenada where a leftist opposition party seized power in an armed revolution in 1979, was a prerequisite for the normalisation of relations between the two Caribbean States.

"We would like to see elections in Grenada. We really would like to see elections in Grenada," Foreign Minister, Louis Tull, told a televised news conference.

Bitter Exchange

Barbados-Grenada relations have been frosty since 1980 following a bitter exchange of words between Prime Ministers Maurice Bishop of Grenada and Tom Adams over the issue of promised elections.

Barbados later withdrew the accreditation of its diplomatic representative to Grenada and all diplomatic courtesies extended to Grenada Government officials using this island's port of entry.

Mr Tull said: "The status quo in Barbados-Grenada relations has not changed." But he pointed out that the two countries still retained an official contact through institutions such as the Caribbean Community (Caricom) of which both countries are members.

Questioned on whether moves were afoot to improve relations between the countries, Mr Tull replied:

"I am always unhappy when things are strained between countries in the Caribbean in particular. We've suffered a lot together, we have built a lot together.

"...The achievements that we have worked so hard to make together should be maintained. We cannot be in a position to feel comfortable at the isolation of one country from the path of the other:

"...We do feel some concern about it and we are hopeful that we will be able to solve whatever differences there are..."

Mr Tull, however, dismissed suggestions that the United States was trying to isolate Grenada by excluding it from its multi-million dollar aid, trade and investment plan for the area--the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

CSO: 3025/313

COLOMBIA OFFERS AID TO HELP WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Interview With Ambassador

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 May 82 p 1

[Article by Eric Smith]

[Text] Barbados is expected to get between US\$5 million to US\$7 million from the South American republic of Colombia to help with its balance of payments problems.

This has been stated by Colombia's Ambassador to Barbados, Carlos Ayerbe, during an interview with the Sunday Advocate-News yesterday. He pointed out that his country was interested in developing social, cultural and economic ties with Barbados and indeed the entire Caribbean.

The Colombian diplomat said details of the money were still being worked out but it is hoped that arrangements will be finalised by August when there will be a new Government in his homeland. General elections will be held there soon.

The money will be in the form of fixed deposits to be handled by the two countries' Central Banks, he added.

Barbados is also expected to benefit from funds which Colombia will be putting into the Caribbean Development Bank, a locally-based developmental financial institution for the benefit of borrowing countries.

Ambassador Ayerbe said his country's Government was arranging to put a soft loan of US\$5 million in the CDB and will give a further US\$10 million to a trust fund administered by the regional bank.

This South American republic is a strong supporter of the CDB having given some US\$5 million to it back in 1974, the Colombian diplomat stated, himself a former employee of the bank. He added that his country would not attach any strings to the money it gave.

He pointed out that Colombia is a participant in the Caribbean Basin Initiative along with United States, Canada, Mexico and Venezuela, adding that the Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay had prepared an economic and trade policy for Caribbean Basin countries with the exception of Cuba since the two countries maintain no diplomatic ties.

The Colombian Ambassador said his country saw the lack of transportation or proper transportation for that matter, between that mainland country and the various Caribbean islands as a weak point and was therefore trying to overcome this problem.

It was uncertain how soon the shipping service, as envisaged will be implemented, but the diplomat said it would be subsidised by his country.

Ambassador Ayerbe said that his country "does not want to assume a position of leadership, politically or otherwise in the region" adding that all it wanted was mutual contribution to each other's development and a fostering of relations through people to people contact.

Selling of Coffee, Beef

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 May 82 p 2

[Text]

Colombia is looking at the possibility of selling a number of products to Barbados, but has two particular ones in mind at present: Coffee and beef.

According to that country's resident Ambassador to Barbados, Carlos Ayerbe, this is because that country produces both items on a very large scale and they are sold much cheaper than what we now pay for them from other market places.

The Ambassador noted that instant coffee was being sold in Barbados at \$25 a pound, while his country sells it at around \$4 to \$5 a pound, while what he termed the regular brand goes for \$1 a pound.

In the case of beef, he said Barbados buys it for a higher price than the \$4.60 a kilo for which Colombia sells it to various European countries as well as the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Ayerbe said that this country had nothing to fear in buying the commodity from his country since the strictest health regulations governing the slaughtering and sale of meat, such as what exist in Barbados, are required in his native land

Meanwhile, he has been

putting forward a proposal to his Government to get Barbadian businessmen (and indeed from other Caribbean countries) to visit the country to get a first hand view of what it has to offer.

The diplomat said that Barbados had been invited to participate in this year's Bogota Fair which comes off in July, but will not be able to attend for numerous reasons. However, it is hoped that the country will participate next year, he stated.

This fair is one of the biggest in the Latin Americas, with prospective buyers coming

from throughout the region along with North America and some European countries. Because of widescale attraction, it is considered an excellent opportunity to show off local products not only to Colombia, but numerous other countries.

Ambassador Ayerbe also spoke about export credit facilities which his country's Export Board makes available to Colombian ex-

porters and could also go to Barbadian importers of goods from his country. He said the terms were at rates below prevailing commercial rates which enabled both the exporters and importers to benefit.

BIGWU CALLS ON ADAMS FOR LEGISLATION ON WORKERS' RIGHTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 May 82 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Tom Adams has been urged by the Barbados Industrial and General Workers' Union (BIGWU) to introduce legislation in Parliament dealing with "workers rights."

In a letter sent to the Prime Minister, copies of which were made available to the local news media, BIGWU also touched on the controversial Emergency Powers Bill, requesting that it be withdrawn pending debate by various organisations.

The letter signed by the union's General Secretary, Mr Keith Layne, pointed to the numerous dismissals which recently took place in the industrial manufacturing and construction industry adding that around 300 of those dismissed were members of BIGWU, founded last year January.

In giving some of the reasons why it wanted legislation relating to "workers rights" enacted, BIGWU said all employers should be compelled to allow their workers to join trade unions of their choice without threats or intimidation. It added that such legislation should "compel employers to recognise Trade Unions promptly which have a substantial number of their workers unionised...to instruct all employers that they cannot dismiss workers during an industrial dispute."

BIGWU also wants legislation enacted to strengthen the Labour Department's position and gave as specific examples "to give the Labour Department power to take a poll at the work place when there is a dispute between that trade union as to which union represents the workers, regardless of whether the trade union or employers agree."

The militant union which has been locked in a number of industrial disputes already this year added that it would like to see legislation introduced to give "the Labour Department power to compel employers to meet when there is a dispute between employers and employees."

In its letter to the Prime Minister, BIGWU also touched on a number of other issues which it saw as being related to the workers welfare and important in improving his "quality of life."

CSO: 3025/314

NPC CHAIRMAN DESCRIBES NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 May 82 p 1

[Text]

The recently established National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) is currently working on a five-year development plan through which it hopes to supply natural gas initially to consumers in the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church.

And, after that period, the NPC hopes to be able to provide the service to the rest of the island, according to NPC chairman Mr. Aaron Truss, M.P.

Speaking after a tour of the Mobil Barbados refinery at the Garrison yesterday, Mr. Truss said it was also hoped to increase the supply to the Barbados Light and Power Company in an effort to reduce the cost of electricity to the consumer.

He described the tour as "an education" and noted that he would like to see the Corporation become involved in oil exploration, primarily because the natural gas also usually extracted was important.

Mr. Truss said it was also envisaged that the NPC and Mobil Exploration would become involved in a joint venture, although a policy decision on the matter had not yet been taken.

He felt Mobil should be congratulated for coming to such a small country like Barbados and fulfill its obligations. He noted that the company's contract was coming up for renewal in 1984, and hoped that the company and Government could re-negotiate the contract which would take the country through to the 21st Century.

General manager of the company, Mr. Massimo De Rose, said the company was hoping to commence the final step of its on-going multi-million rehabilitation programme shortly.

This programme includes the replacement of old storage tanks, fire-fighting equipment, an effective system of drainage collection, a new steam generation unit, various energy conservation projects "and many other items aimed at keeping our operation in line with modern standards of efficiency, safety and quality control."

He said that the final step of the programme to be completed in 12 months was expected to cost approximately Bds\$2.4 million, while the total rehabilitation programme would cost in the vicinity of \$8 million.

Several of the projects have already been completed since 1979, he said, while others were under way or will be started soon. He added that adverse financial results due to unfavourable product price and crude cost relationship had forced the company to postpone the implementation of the final step of tankage replacement.

But, he said, the company hoped to be able to generate the funds necessary to implement that project.

Mr. De Rose said one of the features of Mobil was its constant effort to stimulate creativity through training and constructive criticism of its operational practices.

He noted that the refinery was small, but its capacity (an average of 4 500 barrels per day depending on the feed stock) was more than adequate to continue to guarantee the supply of oil products to Barbados.

Mr. De Rose and Mr. Truss were accompanied on the tour by company officials and members of the new Corporation, established on April 1 this year and merged with the Natural Gas Corporation, as well as Executive Director, Mr. Harcourt Lewis.

BRIEFS

SUBSTATION EXPANSION--The Barbados Light and Power Company recently signed a contract with the Starkstrom--Anlagen--Gesellschaft and Frankfurt, West Germany for the supply and erection of a substation at Wotton in Christ Church. This project is part of a five year substation expansion programme financed by the European Investment Bank. The new substation which is due to be commissioned towards the end of 1983, is needed to distribute power to the southern and eastern sections of the island. Equipment for the project includes the modern type 69KV and 24KV switchgear which used SF6 gas as its insulating medium, and a 30,000-40,000 KVA power transformer. The sum covered in the contract is 3,210,606 Deutschmarks or \$2,760,000. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 May 82 p 2]

OIL IMPORT REBATE--Bridgetown, Wed., (Cana)--Barbados is making full use of the Caribbean oil facility under which Venezuelan and Mexico provide some regional oil-importing countries with soft loans, it has been officially stated. Parliamentary Secretary Clyde Griffith, who is responsible for energy matters in the Prime Minister's Office, said Barbados was getting a 30 percent rebate on 50 percent of its oil imports from Venezuela. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 82 p 5]

DROP IN CRIME--Crime in Barbados is on the decrease. And, indications are that this trend will continue. This is the news which Commissioner of Police Mr Aviston Prescod had for the country yesterday when he convened what could be his final press conference before relinquishing the top rank in the Royal Barbados Police Force. Mr Prescod said that figures up to the end of April this year, when compared with the final quarter of last year, have shown that there has not only been a halt to the upward trend of serious crime, "but there has been a reversal of this trend and crime has started to come down." The Commissioner of Police explained that the reduction in crime was especially in the area of serious crimes such as housebreaking, robbery and larceny from the person. "What is more heartening is that this decrease is continuing," said Mr Prescod. He said that in the month of April alone there were 568 reports of crime which was the lowest figure for any month in the last year. He said that up to May 15 there were no more than 269 reports of crime. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 May 82 p 1]

FINANCE MINISTER SEES DANGER IN UNDULY HIGH WAGE DEMANDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 82 p 15

{Text}

HAMILTON:
BERMUDA is on a collision course with unemployment — as long as the islands rate of inflation keeps falling and pay awards continue to rise.

That is the grim warning Bermudans have been given by Finance Minister David Gibbons, who was Premier for four and a half years before stepping down in January.

In an interview with the weekly "Sun" newspaper, Mr Gibbons said that with inflation now down to 8.7 per cent, pay increases from now on, other than for merit, ought to be no more than ten per cent.

However, recent wage settlements have been running at about 15 per cent for the first year which was more than six per cent above the rate of inflation.

"No economy can sustain that," he told the "Sun." Negotiated pay rise cannot consistently exceed the rate of inflation plus real growth because that ends up with unemployment."

Bermuda, with a population of 55,000, has virtually no

unemployment. The island, which has no income tax, thrives on tourism and international business.

Mr Gibbons went on: "Unions and the public don't believe this until unemployment becomes really apparent." They have forgotten there was unemployment here in 1974-75, particularly in the building trade, because the 1973-4 wage settlements ran between 16 and 20 per cent, which was subsequently greater than the rate of inflation and real growth put together.

"This is what happened in Britain and the United States, where millions are unemployed, and many contracts are being renegotiated downwards to protect employment," he said.

Mr Gibbons forecast there would again be unemployment in the construction industry here because of recent high wage settlements.

He said: "We will revert to the condition of 1974 when people deferred new building additions and maintenance in the business and private sector."

"It will be the same cycle as before with unemployment manifesting itself in a number of areas."

Mr. Gibbons's comments echoed those made earlier by Senator Charles Collis, former President of the Chamber of Commerce, who warned two months ago that major building projects would have to be delayed because of increased labour costs.

(Canal)

MIR PROPOSES CIVILIAN-MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF TRANSITION

La Paz HOY in Spanish 26 May 82 p 12

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] is proposing the formation of a civilian-military government of transition, based on a national agreement with the country's various political, social and institutional forces which are truly representative and authentically democratic.

This proposal was ratified by the MIR National Directorate during a press conference held last night, on which occasion a full explanation was given of this party's political role dating back to the military coup on 17 July 1980.

After 1 year, 10 months and 8 days, an appearance was made before the local press by MIR leaders Jaime Paz Zamora, Antonio Aranibar and Oscar Eid Franco; Paz Zamora had remained outside the country for a long time following an airplane accident on 2 June 1980.

Commenting on the proposal to form a transitional civilian-military government, Paz Zamora said that such a government should fully restore a State of Law by immediately placing in force the rights and obligations set forth in the State Political Constitution, as well as the political-trade union freedoms guaranteed by the charter.

He said that this government should be made up of civilian and military personalities with a national consensus and in this respect should be a clearly nonpartisan but not apolitical government.

In another part of his explanation, he said that MIR will not be part of this government but that it should create for itself a favorable and solidly guaranteed context so that the Bolivian people in the exercise of their sovereignty will be able to speak freely.

Finally, he said that the transitional government should have among its principal concerns the restoring of morality and the reordering of state structures.

This same leader said during one part of the news conference, "It has already been demonstrated ad nauseum that there are only three parties: the party of the dictatorship; the party of democracy for a few; and the party of democracy

freedom and well-being for the vast majority of Bolivians which is called the People's Democratic Union. Ours is a political front of all authentic Bolivians which should bring even greater cohesiveness to its ranks and broaden its program so that the electoral majority which it constitutes today will become a majority of irrenunciabile power."

Later he said, "we have never in the past proposed and do not now propose to accede to government by taking the people by surprise like a bunch of crooks by the spurious device of political trickery. We will exercise power by entering the wide and spotless door of the popular, democratic and freely expressed mandate."

Economic Proposal

A document released by this political party on the subject of the economy reads as follows:

The MIR has developed an Overall National Recovery and Renewal Plan whose provisions will be made public in the near future. However, on this occasion we wish to set forth the basic parameters of this plan: 1. "nationalization" of the state by means of restructuring, reorienting and qualifying public management; 2. democratization of the government by establishing effective channels of participation by national economic agents in the development options and decisions made by the country; 3. Moralization of society by combatting illicit practices inside and outside the government by means of effective utilization of national legislation and implementation of new parameters of economic-social evaluation; 4. economic recovery properly speaking which should be oriented and coordinated by a solid authority which channels central economic decisions that are derived from the responsible and free expression and discussion of the economic interests of the country's different sectors, institutions and productive regions.

To this end we propose the establishment of a National Economic Recovery Council (CONAREC) as the central organization which with the participation of legitimate representatives of the government, private enterprise, workers and national institutions, will become the spokesman of the Management and Production Committees to be set up in the public enterprises and the regulator of the sectional economic recovery agreements to be reached with the private sector.

Both the Management Committees and the sectional economic recovery agreements should be guided in their operation by rules and regulations to be prepared by CONAREC which, as we understand it, should be for the purpose of stimulating the country's principal productive and employment sectors and of seeking a balance of the principal domestic and foreign monetary entitites.

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CSO: 3010/1630

POLITICAL CONFERENCE PREVIEWS ELECTIONS OUTCOME

La Paz ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 May 82 p 4

[Text] There could be another "standoff" in the 1983 elections between the principal Bolivian political positions held by Hernan Siles Zuazo and Victor Paz Estenssoro.

This was one of the conclusions reached by the "New Conception of the Parties" conference and was expounded by Dr Carlos Serrate Reich during the forum sponsored by Radio "Fides" and ULTIMA HORA on the subject of "The Challenges of Opening."

In his prediction of what could happen during the elections scheduled for next year, he said that the following options, which are almost defined already, will be presented: the People's Democratic Union, maintaining its present structure and composition, could receive 35 percent of the votes, which, added to the 5 percent which the Socialist Party-One will receive, decreased by the disappearance of its charismatic leader, Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, will have 40 percent of the electorate.

In the other camp, Serrate Reich places the MNR-Alianza [National Revolutionary Movement-Alliance], with very few changes in its internal composition, which could receive 25 percent of the vote and ADN [National Democratic Alliance], "which has decreased its electoral potential because of its participation in Gen Garcia Meza's coup d'etat," would get 10 percent. Adding both groups together, plus a possible advantage in the splitting of votes, the figure could also be 40 percent.

In the face of this situation, Carlos Serrate who is now the president of the National Press-Radio Accord, demanded the withdrawal from the national political scene of former presidents Hernan Siles Zuazo and Victor Paz Estenssoro, stating that both political leaders, whose presence in national affairs goes back more than 30 years, "should remain at home" to speed up the process of clarifying the country's political spectrum, "before we are surprised by another coup like the one in July 1980."

In this regard, Dr Serrate also said that after a period of "unpublicized repression against the people," which was aggravated by irresponsibility, corruption and incompetence "which generated an unprecedented crisis in

Bolivia," the thrust of the masses in the interest of national survival "will demolish any effort to impede the opening of a new democratic process in the country."

In conclusion, in what he called an ideal alternative which could be present in 1985, he said that three definite political options are present: on the extreme Left, the Marxist parties; on the extreme Right, ADN, FSB [Bolivian Socialist Falange] and other parties of that persuasion; and in the center, groups representative of what he called "non-Marxist socialism" with MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] on one side, with its plan for "democratic national convergence", and on the other side the MNR reunified for a "revolutionary social convergence". He said that these two options could define alternative processes in the exercise of power, for governmental periods of 5 years, to consolidate real democratic order in Bolivia.

"The Challenges of Opening" forum will continue next Thursday, 13 May, with the topic "Prospects for Democracy in Bolivia," under the chairmanship of Dr Salvador Romero.

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CSO: 3010/1630

MNRI OUTLINES STEPS TOWARD DEMOCRATIC OPENING

La Paz HOY in Spanish 27 May 82 p 16

[Text] Now that some of the rights which were taken away on 17 July 1980 have been won back, the MNRI [National Revolutionary of the Left] feels that elections should be held within the next 6 months but no later than the first Sunday in May 1983.

This statement was issued by the political party through its secretary general, Mario Velarde Dorado and reads as follows:

"The Bolivian people have won back some of their rights which were taken away on 17 July 1980, after massive and tenacious resistance which included general strikes by workers, hunger strikes and demonstrations of repudiation by all sectors of Bolivian society. The university authorities were forced to rescind decrees signed by Garcia Meza and his accomplices. For its part, the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) asserted its own status as the trade union organization for Bolivian workers.

"A government without a law in its hands had to declare a kind of status quo between the military authority and the people's government, a sort of standoff between freedom and usurpation.

"The last decrees of General Torrelío's regime are a recognition of part of the reality; however, they are not a recognition of the entire reality emerging from the economic, political social and moral crisis produced by the 17 July 1980 coup.

"Pressures of various kinds, including the dissatisfaction of a large military faction have brought into being the moderately democratizing measures of the regime, which hopes to keep itself in power on the basis of crumbs of freedom but in the line of usurpation from the moment it fails to respond to the popular clamor for general elections for the restoration of popular sovereignty. There can be no freedom with a de facto regime which discredits the military mission, demoralizes the nation and causes the people to be hungry.

"Freedom is indivisible. The government cannot keep in its pocket part of the freedom taken away from the people on 17 July 1980.

"Democracy, well defined as "government of the people, by the people and for the people," is not the regime of General Torrelío, which before falling is assuming democratic or pseudodemocratic forms.

"In order for this government, or the government that replaces it, to be considered by the people as a transitional government from dictatorship to democracy, the following steps are necessary:

"1. Convocation of general elections for president, vice president, senators and deputies, because the people have the right to elect their rulers.

"2. These elections should be held within the next 6 months but no later than the first Sunday in May 1983.

"3. Immediate eradication of the paramilitary organizations in the service of terrorism which is concealing the political "conversion" of the regime. It should be noted that the government, as it was stated by Col Luis Arce Gomez, cannot deny the existence of the paramilitary groups.

"4. Liquidation of drug trafficking and corruption in general.

"5. Immediate preparation of an emergency plan in defense of the national and popular economy."

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CSO: 3010/1630

FORMER PRESIDENT PEREDA TERMS ELECTIONS PREMATURE

La Paz ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 May 82 pp 5, 9

[Text] Former President Juan Pereda indicated today that he is opposed to holding elections in the short-term without first having resolved the economic crisis and having reestablished the people's confidence in the Armed Forces.

In statements to PRESENCIA, he said that such tasks should be accomplished by a new government, as he felt that "there would be a lack of confidence on the part of Bolivians in the present government program."

When he was asked who should undertake these tasks, he answered, "In the first place, they should be persons not involved in the present or past kleptocracies, a condition which would give them legitimacy and viability to bring about the moral rearmament the country needs."

"It will have to be a government of capable people," he continued, "and people of integrity from both the civilian and military sectors." That said, "these personalities should offer their best to lift Bolivia out of the situation in which it finds itself."

'No' to Elections

General Pereda, who ruled the country from July to November 1978, said, "The simplest and most attractive way out for many interests but at one and the same time most irresponsible solution is a repetition of what happened to me. That is, accede to power and call for elections in the short-term without any new instrument to ensure that such elections will be taken quite seriously."

Commenting on the present national situation, the former president said, "The nation is once again being handed over to electoralism without attainment of the minimal requisites so that the result of a proper election will be a legitimate and lasting democracy."

He added, "Today, more than ever, the government has urgent duties to carry out for the country." He said, "Not only must the economic problem be faced up to with responsibility and capability but also we must create the political conditions so that the country will not again be bathed in blood."

General Pereda said, "The betrayal of democracy is to hand it a country mortally wounded in its economic, morale and social sectors."

He went on to say that the armed forces "should remember and avoid a repetition of what happened in 1979 when, after ruining the nation's economy, elections were offered to cover up the crime."

Armed Forces

With respect to the confrontation between civilians and the military, the former president said, "The departure of the armed forces from their government positions, in the present conditions of discredit and weakness, without having been purged of their bad elements by means of the penalties provided by law, even if they be persons who have held high positions, is to condemn the future of the institution to social laceration from which it will be able to rehabilitate itself only with difficulty."

He added to this though by saying, "In other words, the armed forces cannot avoid rehabilitating themselves morally and professionally." He added that after the purge he proposes, "the armed forces should face up to the process of democratization in peace and union with their people."

Finally, when he was asked whether he has any personal political plans, he answered that it was not his intention to capitalize politically on the views he was expressing but rather that he was motivated by a great concern, "because I cannot close my eyes to the terrible and difficult situation which each and every Bolivian is experiencing." He then made an appeal for unity, unselfishness, calm and above all love for the fatherland.

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C30: 3010/1630

HESITATION IN U.S. VOTE AT UN VIEWED

PY100605 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jun 82 p 3

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" page: "Hesitation by the United States"]

[Text] The episode involving the U.S. vote in the UN Security Council--first vetoing the Spanish-Panamanian draft resolution, then qualifying it for the records of the Security Council by saying that it would have preferred to abstain--proves that Brazil is not the only one navigating through perilous seas, as noted last Sunday. U.S. diplomacy is also beginning to lose its standards, and probably by this time the White House and the State Department no longer know how to provide support to Great Britain in the conflict with Argentina.

Maybe it was the result of faulty coordination--as suggested by Mrs Kirkpatrick--or perhaps a subtle way of warning Great Britain not to be carried away in savoring a victory and humiliating Argentina. The fact is that the U.S. posture is a sign that the United States no longer knows how far it is involved in this sinister imbroglio that the war over the Falklands is becoming. The reality of the scramble for power in the world dictates, in the one hand, the closest solidarity with Great Britain which, incidentally, has the law on its side; but, on the other hand, that same reality, viewed from the exclusively U.S. perspective, leads to the supposition that a great effort should be made to prevent the total crumbling of U.S. relations with Latin America.

Someone has already said that the Latin American solidarity manifested in this war is as wide as the Rio Grande but only one centimeter deep. Whether this observation is true or not, the fact is that the width of the river could be seen in the form of the applause given to Costa Mendez's last speech at the meeting of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty and the cold silence given to Haig's speech. In the attempt to transform that silence, not into a standing ovation but at least into a courteous applause, the White House seems to have exposed itself to the risk of being seen at the United Nations and outside the United Nations--in this era of instant communications--as being incapable of adopting a clear position on the Falkland problem despite all the time it has had to think and decide.

The risk created by the hesitant U.S. vote at the United Nations is that the world in which we find ourselves could be made more confusing, and at this point more confusing for Great Britain. In other words, all seems to indicate that the U.S. Government is seriously concerned about the possibility of totally losing the support of the Latin American countries--which, after all, constitute its rearguard--and would even admit that the Argentine aggression be rewarded, at least with the participation of Buenos Aires in the deliberations over the future of the islands.

That is one aspect of the problem. The other aspect is that the U.S. behavior at the United Nations cast doubts, as we said before, about the capacity of the White House to make decisions at a time when equally important but antagonistic interests call for clear-cut decisions. What should characterize a power aspiring to world leadership is its ability to make decision at the proper time, even if the decision is wrongly made. Hesitation in questions as serious as that of agreeing or not with the Spanish-Panamanian draft resolution is extremely negative and it affects credibility; in other words, that hesitation is damaging for the prestige of the United States. This is so because, for practical purposes, which are the ones that count, the fact that the United States should go on official record saying that it did not want to veto but abstain--that is, that it has no position--is useless. As far as the consequences of the UN resolutions and the fate of the Port Stanley battle are concerned, the United States once again sided with Great Britain.

Deep down all this just proves our assertions regarding a confusing world: The diplomatic positions in the West are more unreliable all the time. From this standpoint, the only fixed point of reference today is that given by the position of Mrs Thatcher; a position which seems intransigent to our sentimentalism which would like for the aggressor and the victim of the aggression to end up shaking hands as though nothing had happened. In her monolithic position, Mrs Thatcher at least reminds the world that one does not go to war to give satisfaction to whomever did wrong. This lesson should always be remembered by dictators and potential militarist adventurers who, taking advantage of the sentimentality of some, the hesitations of others and the inclination of all of them not to apply sanctions, dream of creating new situations through the use of force.

CSO: 3001/159

THIRD ROUND OF CANDIDATES' TELEVISION PRESENTATIONS

Molina Discusses Foreign Policy

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 May 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The presidential candidate of Democratic Unity, Gerardo Molina, last night expressed his virtual support for the stand that Colombia has taken on the Falkland Islands conflict. He expressed his support for Argentina in condemning colonialism but denounced the military occupation of the islands before international legal resources had been exhausted.

In a speech devoted entirely to foreign policy issues, the spokesman of the Left in Colombia's current election campaign also rejected dependence on either of the two superpowers and called for greater autonomy vis-a-vis the East-West blocs. This is what Molina said:

Ladies and gentlemen:

The map of Latin America is full of hot spots today: conflicts in Central America, conflicts in the Caribbean, conflicts in South America. Today more than ever we urgently need an international law that can peacefully resolve disputes between nations.

Fortunately, the international law that emerged from the Second World War is a law of peace. In contrast to the previous law of war, which was concerned mainly with prisoners, the wounded and occupied territories, today's law, through a series of regional and international institutions, is geared mainly towards calmly resolving conflicts and settling differences that arise between nations in the area of economic cooperation.

What are the basic principles of this international law for a country like Colombia? In the first place, respect for the sovereignty of nations, respect for the principle of nonintervention and self-determination, the equality of nations before the law, the nonrecognition of territories obtained by force and equitable cooperation for economic development. The application of these principles at times unavoidably puts us at odds with the major powers. With regard to the power closest to us, the United States, we can see how its view of national security often

leads to collisions with other countries, especially small and medium-sized ones. To the United States, its national security entails, above all, defending its strategic positions and material interests through force and a policy of alliances. This leads to a division of countries into enemies and friends.

What happened with the human rights policy is a good example. When Carter spelled it out, he did so in absolute terms, as a dominant concern of U.S. foreign policy. But it was not long before his strategists pointed out to him that the doctrine had a limit: the security of the United States. The president's advisers told him that there were nations that had to be given aid as friends of the United States even though they violated human rights there. This noble policy was thus toned down and practically disappeared when President Reagan took over.

This broadly conceived doctrine of national security unavoidably leads to military intervention in other countries, and this is what is happening in Central America. The United States feels that this area and the Caribbean are extremely important to its national security, and this is why Secretary Haig has frankly said that his government is considering the possibility of military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. As I have just stated, we base our understanding of foreign policy on the two principles of nonintervention and respect for the self-determination of peoples and we thus cannot agree with this line of action. Our view is that the United States is making a series of mistakes in its assessment of what is going on in Central America. Washington's policy portrays the Sandinist Revolution as a movement that aims to establish a Marxist-Leninist society in that country right away. But that is not the case. Nicaragua is something else. It is a country that respects political pluralism and is trying to create and promote a mixed economy in which the private sector has a major role. At this moment, for example, the Managua government is pursuing a policy to support private producers through incentives. My defense of the Nicaraguan revolution does not mean that I agree with its government's absurd claim to the islands of San Andres and Providencia, which are obviously sovereign Colombian territory.

El Salvador

We see something similar in the case of El Salvador. The White House feels that the rebel movement, which has been victorious in many spots, is simply trying to establish what it thinks Nicaragua is after, a Marxist-Leninist society. But that is not the case. What the Salvadoran rebels are trying to do is simply shake off the age-old yoke of the native oligarchy that has been supported by bloodthirsty dictatorships. I am convinced that were it not for U.S. intervention in El Salvador, the civil war there would have already been won by the rebels, thus avoiding heavy bloodshed and general economic ruin.

My observation would be the same for Guatemala. The fact is that for more than 40 years the United States was accustomed to having dictatorships in this region, satrapies that it installed and got rid of as its whim. But now, when these peoples stop and think, and take up arms to defend their rights, Washington cannot understand what is happening there.

What I mean to say is that the U.S. Government wants to set itself up as the arbiter of these people's destiny, when they are the only ones who can decide what kind of social and political organization they prefer.

We can now see that in order to please the United States, Colombian diplomacy has made a series of mistakes. For example, we have lost Cuba's friendship because our representative to the United Nations was determined to frustrate Cuba's right to a seat on the Security Council. Another mistake we made, also to please the United States, was to invite Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte to take part in the ceremonies in Santa Marta commemorating the 150th anniversary of Bolivar, even though El Salvador is not part of the Bolivar area and even though Mr Duarte had not been elected president through constitutional channels. Moreover, our government, following Washington's example, has remained silent and not complained about its arming of a neighboring country, Venezuela, that has territorial disputes with Colombia, that even has its eyes on La Guajira and that would like to seize part of Guyana.

This is why we are calling for an independent foreign policy in which we can exert all of our influence to help peacefully resolve conflicts between nations. In the case of Argentina, for example, the stand of the movement on whose behalf I am speaking is very clear. We support the Argentine people in their desire to regain control over the Falkland Islands and we second them in their effort to eliminate the last strongholds of colonialism. At the same time, we condemn the Argentine Government for having taking possession of the Malvinas outside the law. We also reproach the Buenos Aires government for having taken advantage of an international juncture that could lead to war in Argentina and even in the Americas, simply to defuse a difficult internal situation. We also reproach the Argentine Government for its policy of violating human rights, as evidenced by its prohibiting an opposition and its vile use of torture and disappearances. As for Great Britain, we denounce its warlike tendencies and its intransigence in negotiations that could lead to a peaceful settlement of the Malvinas Islands problem.

Venezuela

With regard to Venezuela, we feel that our government ought to declare that the phase of trying to peacefully settle the dispute over the demarcation of ocean and underwater zones has come to an end, inasmuch as the Venezuelan Government's tactics are to prolong these talks interminably. We are therefore calling on the government to resort

to the mechanisms provided for in international law and in existing treaties to resolve this problem. As far as undocumented workers are concerned, we propose that a commission of the two countries intervene to finally put an end to the annoying issue of documenting the countless Colombian workers in Venezuela and we express our profound concern over Venezuela's pursuit of an arms buildup policy that poses a threat to its neighbors.

In addition, to allow for the input of public opinion, we propose a meeting of Venezuelan and Colombian grassroots forces to seek a consensus on the problems pending between the two countries and to form a major pressure group.

As far as border policy is concerned, we feel that the government is making a serious mistake by promoting tourism in San Andres and Providencia, knowing as we do that tourism is cosmopolitan and weakens national solidarity. We are thus calling for an economic and industrial development policy for San Andres and Providencia that links them more closely to the mainland. We feel exactly the same about La Guajira Peninsula. We feel that it was a mistake to have pursued an economic policy solely geared to the growing and trafficking of marihuana in that section of our country, because this foul activity necessarily causes the residents of the peninsula to feel closer to international buyers than to their own country. We are glad, therefore, that the government has begun thinking about an economic development policy for the peninsula. Above all, we feel that Colombia ought to stress its pacifism, its opposition to any arms buildup policy in the Americas. We ask, hence, that our army not be involved in the attempts to create a continental force to intervene in Central America. We are also against the so-called Viola Plan, which simply means that the sole aim of all Latin American armed forces would be to combat subversion.

Development

Colombia has to decide now what it prefers: an arms buildup or development. We, of course, are in favor of a development policy and we therefore feel that military spending should be limited to what is strictly essential to maintain the country's security. Hence, we endorse the proposal advanced by the presidents of the Americas at their Punta del Este meeting in 1967, when they said: We express our intention to limit military spending in a manner commensurate with the actual demands of military security, avoiding those outlays that are not essential to the performance of the specific mission of the Armed Forces.

Getting to the heart of foreign policy, we feel that the time has come for our country to become independent of the two blocs, the East-West division, because this policy of blocs has led directly to the creation of superpowers that look out for their own interests above all. We must therefore place ourselves outside this East-West conflict. Thus, we feel that we ought to join the powerful movement of the nonaligned

nations, which today comprises two-thirds of the members of the international community. The nonaligned movement prevents the world from being divided into blocs because its basic values are equal rights, independence, economic and social development and the democratization of international relations. Nonalignment implies ongoing efforts against all elements of supremacy and against the formation of spheres of influence. The fact is that thanks to nonalignment, the problems of world peace and security have ceased to be the exclusive domain of the major powers today. With this movement the unfettered national development of each country has been strengthened.

Unfortunately, Colombia has not yet joined the nonaligned movement and therefore merely sent an observer to the movement's latest meeting in Havana.

As we become independent of the policy of blocs, our foreign policy, in line with the nonaligned movement, ought to attach due importance to the North-South dialogue. The North is made up of the industrialized countries and the South of the underdeveloped countries. If the countries of the South join together, the rich countries, which are dominated today by a "sacred egoism," as General De Gaulle would say, might decide to tone down their protectionism and let in the manufactures that already account for a significant portion of the exports of the South, under favorable market conditions. If the countries of the South band together properly, the technologies developed in the wealthy countries might also be made available to us on good terms. A movement made up of countries from the South could also get the countries of the North to provide an ongoing inflow of capital through existing international organizations and institutions and could also see to it that the wealthy nations finally comply with the UN resolution obliging them to contribute to the developing countries in the form of aid 0.7 percent of their gross national products. Estimates are that this aid could bring in an additional \$35 billion. All of this is contained in the excellent report of the Brandt Mission, which could serve as a guideline for Colombia's foreign policy, focusing on the independent development of these countries.

But to do all this we need a strong, determined and interventionist State.

Planning

The constitutional reforms of 1936, 1945 and 1968 created, at least on paper, an interventionist State whose functions are to promote development and defend the social interests of the masses. These reforms are so advanced that I am convinced that a socialist government would not require constitutional amendments during its initial years. In particular after the reform of 1968, which called for planning to make proper use of resources, Colombia today can channel credit, control currency and foreign trade. The Colombian Government can also pursue a vigorous policy to halt monopolistic trends. This is the letter of the law. But practice is something else, because the political will to implement these lofty ideas has been lacking.

The Lopez Michelsen administration speaks a strange language. It says that the development of industry will be fundamentally a task for the private sector. The Chicago School, which is the dominant force in our economic policy today, says that economic freedom, "laissez-faire" is the way to go, and thus several high-powered financial groups have been set up in our country. To the Chicago School, the way to guarantee rapid capital formation is high interest rates, decontrolled prices and the exploitation of workers and consumers. Economic liberalism thus teaches that the best course is to broaden economic freedoms, as is happening today in England, the United States and, of course, in the Southern Cone. This is an extremely dangerous economic development policy. A very intelligent observer, Dr Vasquez Carrizosa, says that in our country production is controlled, publicly or clandestinely, by the financial conglomerates, not by the government.

Thus, in conclusion, I would like to comment today that Colombia is pursuing a policy of assigning more and more major activities to the private sector. In the field of education, for example, we can see how today private interests prevail in secondary and even university schooling, which until recently was centered around public colleges. The protection of property and individuals, which used to be taken care of by the police, has shifted to private groups today. The government has also authorized the construction of huge numbers of private ports, and there is even talk of handing over all aspects of railway administration to private groups. The latest conservative program strikes a strongly anti-interventionist note. It talks, for instance, of eliminating government agencies whose activities could be efficiently performed by the private sector. We are looking at a serious ideological problem. Can we continue to tolerate a weak State, in keeping with these liberal and conservative practices? We feel that we cannot. Because giving free rein to economic forces means making Colombia the country of choice for monopolies, conglomerates and privileges. Good night.

Betancur Attacks Lopez Michelsen

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 May 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Conservative candidate Belisario Betancur said last night that "it is almost inhuman" for Lopez and his friends to try and scare naive people with the threat of violence, if they do not win, in a country plagued by such serious problems as unemployment and the high cost of living, which according to them "cannot be solved."

In his third and next to last televised speech, Betancur stressed his six main proposals for combating these problems, including no down payments on government-built housing and soft loans, and asked Colombians to give him the same opportunity to govern as they gave Lopez.

The presidential candidate said:

Thanks to this series of speeches, you have gradually developed an idea of what the presidential candidates' platforms are. You are becoming aware of the intentions of and the common ground and differences among those of us seeking your support on 30 May.

I thus get the impression that my fellow countrymen have clearly perceived that there is a wide gap between the ideas and, above all, the government style proclaimed by Dr Lopez Michelsen and the ideas that Dr Molina, Dr Galan and I have expressed, with clear-cut differences here too, of course.

Dr Lopez seems to be talking exclusively to the political class, stressing issues such as Article 120 of the constitution, even though this point has been resolved. But the former president and his friends are broaching the issue so that we will tell them right now how many government posts they are going to get, as if it mattered to the Colombians who do not live off patronage.

Scare Tactics

What is worse and almost inhuman in a country plagued by problems such as unemployment and the high cost of living is that Dr Lopez and his friends are trying to avoid defeat by frightening naive people, especially in small towns, as their radio propaganda shows, with predictions of violence if they do not win...

And all of this under the great administrative logo of "it can't be done." I leave it up to you to judge such methods of seeking voter support...

Lopez Has No Specific Proposals

Meanwhile, we talk about a country in social conflict and propose ways of resolving, first of all, the problems of the common people, problems like unemployment, high prices, housing, education, personal security.

This is the difference between those of us who pursue politics with a sense of social responsibility, concerned about meeting the needs of the common people, and those who pursue politics only to survive and in the interest of the patronage system that is plaguing and ruining Colombia...

I mentioned above the scare tactics that Dr Lopez and his friends are using to avert defeat, especially in the poor departments and municipalities, because they know that in our large and medium-sized cities theirs is a lost cause; the people's rejection of them is definitive and overwhelming...

Lopez's Humiliation of the Coast

But what a sad and inhuman approach it is not to propose a single positive idea for meeting the tremendous needs of these departments, of the municipalities ruined and left backward by patronage.

Look, for example, at the treatment being given to the Atlantic coast, whose intelligent, sincere residents have to endure the humiliation of not having their major needs answered. They are not being told, as they ought to be, that coastal residents should be on all of the boards of the corporations and enterprises that administer their resources. They are not being told how their agriculture is going to be revived, how their favorable location is going to be utilized to promote industrialization and create jobs or how the sizable resources in Matoso and El Cerrejon are going to be made to serve first the people of the coast, not the beneficiaries of patronage. They are not even talking to the women who are working on plans to organize day care centers.

Against the Electricity Rates on the Coast

No. Their intelligence is belittled, their dignity is insulted, and they are forced to pay homage to red roosters that "are here today and gone tomorrow." We, in contrast, want a strong coast because if the coast is strong, Colombia will be strong. Therefore, we will strive to put an end to the scandalous injustice whereby, in addition to suffering from an appallingly bad overall economic situation, the residents of the coast have to pay four times as much for electric power as the rest of the country. This will not continue, because we will freeze rates and level them out.

Decentralization

We will work for true administrative decentralization. For example, we will grant greater autonomy and more resources to regional and especially local government to perform functions that the central government today discharges inefficiently, such as the payment of teachers. This proposal is economic and social rather than political. We will now see why.

Leaving aside certain technical causes of economic stagnation, we must realize that the major problems of our cities, such as unemployment, are due to migration from the countryside. But as we also know, the peasant farmers are not moving because they want to, but rather because of the difficult living conditions they face and because of our neglect of them. They head off to the cities with the vain hope of meeting their needs. The peasant farmers who leave Usiacuri, San Pelayo, Majagual, Maria La Baja, Coyaima or Mercaderes, towns that many of you do not even know the location of, do so because they no longer have any hopes for themselves or for their families there. And this has to be corrected. How? By bringing electric power, health care, education, loans and housing to the countryside so that fewer people leave, thus strengthening both city and countryside.

Popularly Elected Mayors

Furthermore, we must always see to it that the community has input in decisionmaking, and that is why mayors should be elected by the people and the municipalities given resources to regain their decision-making and executive power over local roads, primary education, etc. In short, there are many government activities that should be directly controlled by the local residents, not by the arrogant, distant bureaucracies of the capital cities. We must remember that the groundwork for all this already exists. Built under the most precarious conditions, most rural schools and water supply systems represent the efforts of those who benefit from them. In other words, the raw material is there; the authorities only have to cease their neglect.

Combating Unemployment

I want to talk to you now about the most serious problems plaguing Colombians everywhere: unemployment and the high cost of living, because even those who have a job or some other source of income are worried because the systematic rise in the cost of living makes their earnings insufficient.

These two problems have invaded and are strangling millions of homes like weeds. I do not want to dwell on statistics, on technical data; I do not want to make my time with you boring. I will simply summarize for you the many studies that my technical advisers have conducted and the many solutions that they have come up with for creating jobs and combating the high cost of living.

To begin overcoming joblessness, we have to once again get our economy moving, because it has been brought to a standstill by high taxes, high interest rates and the absurd imports that compete unfairly with our industry and farming, thus taking bread out of the mouths of our workers because of the shutdown of factories.

Since everything is interdependent, by spurring agriculture we will begin not only to provide honorable work to one-third of our population but also to resolve the food shortages that affect more than half of the family shopping basket. To give an example in industry, by promoting low-income and middle-class housing, we will create 200,000 new jobs for skilled and unskilled workers alike.

Six Jobs Programs

I am going to talk to you about just 6 of the 20 programs that we can undertake right now. These are plans that the government can implement right away and on its own, without legal or bureaucratic obstacles. All that is needed is the determination to carry them out. And you all know that my administration will have that resolve. The following are some of the ways of combating joblessness and the poor productivity that so concerns large, medium and small businessmen:

1. Promoting construction: But not to build 30 million peso apartments with loans that have been denied to the people who really need them.

2. Promoting small and medium industry: Easy, soft credit and technical assistance for small and medium industry, which are also labor-intensive. National employment stability depends a great deal on progress in this sector, first of all because its development will gradually resolve the serious problem of the government's being the nation's biggest employer. It will also mitigate the major problems that at times plague large-scale industry.

3. Promoting new companies: Tax breaks and loans at favorable interest rates to expand existing companies or to encourage the formation of new ones, on the condition that they update their technology and charge prices that are satisfactory for domestic consumers and competitive overseas. This will be done through individual contracts so that compliance can be monitored.

4. External loans for business: Authorization for businessmen, subject to the proper controls, to secure loans overseas.

5. Protection for domestic output: Categorical, priority protection for domestic labor, with tight controls on imports and monitoring of government purchases of studies or machinery so that the Colombian product is preferred as long as our companies practice quality control and do not engage in abuses with domestic prices; although they will receive maximum protection, they will also be punished when they violate the rules of the game.

6. Protection for retirees and the handicapped: Ways of making use of the intellectual or physical capacities of retired workers, who know their jobs well and can work on terms that are economically favorable to employers, inasmuch as they have another main source of income. We must utilize their skills and the skills of the handicapped, who can perform a great many jobs, just as they do in so many other countries.

Each one of these measures, as well as many others that we have prepared, means two basic things in the lives of all of us: jobs and social peace, true peace, not the bureaucratic peace of political machines.

Protection for Farming

We are going to do the same for farming, which, I repeat, holds the key to the struggle against high prices. You know that we have two types of agriculture. One is the modern, mechanized farming in the plains, on the plateaus. We are talking about sugar, cotton (before they did away with it) and rice. We call this agroindustry. This kind of farming, along with cattle raising, has serious limitations, mainly the lack of water regulation, droughts and the periodic floods that make news on radio and in the papers.

We are going to help on this front, by extending the payback periods for loans under land improvement and irrigation programs; at the same time, we are going to expand the irrigation districts started under the Lleras Restrepo administration, mainly on the Atlantic coast. The coast is in a position to become a major food supplier for Colombia, the Caribbean and the Andean market if we undertake an ambitious land enhancement program in La Mojana and on the island of Mompos, as I said in my proposed Coastal Development Plan last Friday in Barranquilla.

No More Food Imports

But there is another kind of farming that we have to pay more attention and give more breaks to: farming on the slopes, small-plot farming by the small and medium tenant farmers that I mentioned just a little while ago. This is the farming that makes a daily impact in our homes. This is the weakened farming that forced us to import in 1981 32 billion pesos in foodstuffs that we used to grow. Among other things, and as if it were not enough just to have to import food, we run a great many risks under this system. For example, at the moment, because of the war in the Falklands IDEMA [Agriculture and Livestock Marketing Institute] has been unable to import the corn it had purchased from Argentina. How about that!

Rural Productivity

These small or family-owned farms and ranches need easy, inexpensive credit. We have to give them technical aid so that they can boost output, so that they do not continue producing four times less corn, for example, than Argentine tenant farmers or seven times less than U.S. farmers. We have to provide them with good roads so that they can get their crops to market in timely fashion. We have to give them decent housing. In this regard, I welcomed the good news made public last Sunday over the Caracol network by the manager of the Agrarian Bank to the effect that rural housing is being provided without a down payment, which even Dr Lopez acknowledged in his speech a week ago in Medellin, with his well-known excuses.

We have to give peasant farmers the wherewithal to meet their food and health care needs and their large families' need for decent clothing, because our pantries depend on them. For example, how can we ask them to work in the fields when they have to send children who have not even had brown sugar water for breakfast to a school that is three or four hours away?

Support for the Countryside

We are going to be there helping our peasant farmers to live in decent conditions so that they can provide our families with food. We will help them to boost productivity, to get fair wages for their labor and to produce enough so that families can afford the food they need. We can achieve this balance by getting rid of so many middlemen, by

setting up production and marketing cooperatives, by insuring crops and by aiding consumer organizations. In short, we have the firm intention of defending the household economy and we will begin our programs as soon as we take office.

Protection for Coffee Growers

With regard to coffee, which has so much to do with the national economy in areas such as foreign exchange reserves, products for our industries and jobs for millions of people, I will repeat what I have said so many times:

1. Withholding will be only to finance our crop surplus, what is not sold and to purchase crops.
2. The ad valorem or export duties must be gradually eliminated, retaining only the percentage needed to bolster the National Coffee Fund, in other words, to serve the coffee growers, not patronage.
3. The coffee growers ought to be given loans on the same terms as cotton farmers, rice growers and sugar cane growers get. It is not fair to discriminate against coffee and to force the federation to sell costly securities that make coffee production much more expensive and that weaken the growers and their own trade union organizations.

Against High Interest Rates

In addition to all this, we will take radical action against high interest rates. We have already seen that the famous gentlemen's agreements do not work. So, we are going to try other methods, some of which are contained in the measures that I have announced, to put an end to this dangerous speculative binge, so that what is happening in other countries does not happen to us, when the artificial prices come tumbling down on all economic fronts, and that's when everything comes apart. Let's organize, let's begin, as the saying goes, to "live within our means"[quedar en nuestra plata]. Let's get back to reality. Our national sovereignty even depends on this, as Dr Lleras Restrepo found out during his administration when he stood firm against the designs of the International Monetary Fund.

There Can Be No Peace Without Social Justice

To round out our struggle against the high cost of living and the shrinking incomes of Colombians, I want to emphasize a very earnest pledge tonight: There will be no new taxes during the 4 years of my administration. And we will seek tax relief for earned income because we cannot continue having the unjust situation in which the taxes set under Dr Lopez's famous tax reform in 1974, because of inflation, are almost confiscatory today for people who live only off what they earn.

I want to stress that this is what peace means to me, because without social justice there can be no peace, either here or anywhere else, even if all the political machines in the world get together to defend only what is in their interest.

A Challenge to Lopez Michelsen

Before concluding, I would like to speak calmly but frankly about something that we have been forgetting and that Colombians have been wondering about every day, something that gets hidden amid discussions of whether or not housing can be provided without down payments, whether or not new professionals can be developed, something that, if we live in a minimal democracy, the person being questioned ought to answer.

The New Alternatives

Professor Molina, Dr Galan and I have presented our alternatives to the Colombian people. We have asked our people to give us the opportunity to serve them as president of the republic. We want to be put to the test. It so happens that the other candidate, Dr Lopez Michelsen, has already had that chance and has already demonstrated what he is capable of doing in government. I would like to ask Dr Lopez on behalf of millions of Colombians:

After your term in office, which you do not seem to regret, why do you feel that you are entitled to be president again? Don't you think that after having been found wanting, you deserve the minimum sanction that nations stipulate for leaders who do not enjoy their trust, which is to keep them out of power, power that they were unable to wield for the benefit of the citizenry?

The Fate of the Colombian People

This is not a political problem or a problem of simple mechanics having to do with minorities and majorities within a party. Nor must I fail to speak out just because Dr Lopez was honorable and gallant enough to appoint me Colombia's ambassador to Spain. No. The fate of a people is at stake.

We can legitimately assume that another Lopez administration will be as bad as or worse than his first one, in its inefficiency, in its arrogance, in its divisiveness, in its fondness for creating and sharpening supposed or real differences with people whom it does not like, regardless of how respectable and prudent they might be. So, many of us are asking ourselves: What sort of strange arrogance makes him feel entitled to govern Colombia again?

Lopez Michelsen Should Explain

With the fine mind for which he is famous and which I unhesitatingly admire, Dr Lopez could respond to the criticisms of his administration

that, for example, Dr Gabriel Poveda Ramos, a prominent liberal economist, voices in a document put out by the Medellin newspaper EL MUNDO, which backs Lopez. Dr Poveda says, among other things:

"...To summarize, the regressive model that has been in force since 1974 is characterized by the following essential traits:

- ...a sharp turn away from or lack of interest in industrialization;
- ...an ignorance or underestimation of the real problems of rural areas;
- ...an obsessive but ineffective battle against inflation;
- ...an abandonment of income redistribution efforts;
- ...priority and preferential incentives for the financial sector;
- ...a wide-open door to foreign merchandise and capital;
- ...indifference to or acceptance of the accelerated concentration of property and economic power."

This is what Dr Poveda has to say.

The Right of Reply

Yes, Dr Lopez has a lot of questions to answer. Dr Lopez does not enjoy the democratic trust of the Colombian people and he is not going to secure it.

I could have talked about this next week in my last speech, which is also the last address by a presidential candidate. But because of my sense of fairness to an adversary, because of my respect for the right of reply and to be informed and because of the importance that Colombians attach to this issue, I brought it up tonight so that Dr Lopez Michelsen will have the chance to reply.

And I hope that he does, if he cares about what his fellow countrymen think and feel.

Good night.

Lopez Treats Economic Issues

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 May 82 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Text] Former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen last night defended his administration's record and said that during his term many things that seemed impossible "did get done."

"For example," he asserted, "we were able to achieve a farm production [increase] of 8 percent in 1978 and an industrial production [increase] of 10 percent."

Furthermore, "we were able to rectify an erroneous policy that had put an end to oil well drilling, with the results that we can all see," the former chief executive added.

He asserted that "thanks to the measures taken during the 'economic emergency,' the unquestionable fact is that we are on the road back to self-sufficiency in fuels."

He said that he would focus his efforts on the production of 13 basic items in the Colombian diet: meat, milk, rice, corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, soybeans, brown sugar loaf, sugar, bananas, yucca, eggs and sorghum.

The Liberal candidate's next to last televised speech went as follows:

Good evening, television viewers.

When my party nominated me in 1974 as its candidate at the convention, Dr Belisario Betancur sent me a letter of congratulations, which I answered expressing the very sincere hope that he would also be as luck as I was, in other words, that after having been banished as his party's "black sheep," he could some day vindicate himself as the Conservative Party's candidate. What I did not imagine is that Dr Betancur was going to be the Conservative Party's permanent candidate. Thus, it strikes me as quite odd that the Conservative Party is now saying "it's now or never," which I think is unjustified under the current circumstances.

Because I am a democrat, I do not think that we can say that the Conservative Party will never return to power. On the contrary, the unfettered workings of democracy would inevitably cause the Liberal and Conservative parties to alternate in government, without the need for a constitutional provision to this effect.

But what I do think is that the Conservative Party cannot tie itself indefinitely to Dr Betancur's candidacy. He has been a candidate four times, never successfully. I wonder, therefore, why the party is confusing two completely different things: the "now or never" for Dr Betancur and the "now or never" for the Conservative Party, all the more so when Dr Betancur has a more serious problem than having been president of the republic, which is that he has been a candidate so many times, of so many different factions and under such different circumstances.

Let's think, for example, about the catalogue of criticisms that we could compile of Dr Betancur's flippant nature, his ability to jump all too quickly to certain conclusions.

A Medellin newspaper (EL COLOMBIANO) has been publishing articles by Dr Juan Zuleta Ferrer against Dr Betancur. But we could get articles like these by Dr Alvaro Gomez, we could get them from the days of the National Front, by Dr Alberto Lleras, we could get them by Dr Ospina Perez in other periods, in the paper LA REPUBLICA.

So then, we cannot confuse the fate of a party with the fate of a candidate who has not managed to crown his many attempts with success. I think that to get away from the "now or never" dilemma, the Conservative Party is going to have to get away from Dr Betancur and seek out the "now," rather than someone who has never been able to get elected president.

Economic Credibility

I propose to talk tonight about the issue of economic credibility.

I think that my record entitles me to enjoy credibility. For example, how much did we get done in the sphere of oil? By the second year of my term, Colombia, which had been an oil exporter, became an importer. But thanks to the measures taken during the "economic emergency," the unquestionable fact is that we are on the road back to self-sufficiency in fuels. The reason for the shortfall was not that we did not have oil but that we were not drilling, under an erroneous policy that put an end to drilling. So, we jumped from fewer than 10 to almost 100 wells in our search for oil, with the results that we can all see.

We were able to do something similar with cacao, which we had been importing from Brazil and Ecuador for decades. Now, however, we produce enough cacao not only for domestic consumption but also for export. I think that many things that seem impossible ought to be put on the "can do" list. For example, we were able to achieve a farm production [increase] of 8 percent in 1978 and an industrial production [increase] of 10 percent. It all depends on the policies that are put into effect.

More Consumers, Fewer Producers

Since I am devoting my speech tonight to economics, I would like to explain how I view Colombia's economic problem. I promise to discuss social problems, jobs and security in the city and countryside in particular, in my next address.

To me and to many Colombians, our economic problem consists of the concentration in our cities of people who used to be peasant farmers. In other words, every year there are increasingly more consumers and fewer food producers.

On my recent swings through the country I heard this complaint for the first time from the peasant farmers themselves. They told me:

The military service is taking people away from the fields. We think that it is going to cause great damage to Colombia if military service is not extended equally to all social classes and to city and countryside alike, because the peasant farmers who serve in the military do not come back to the fields.

This is what the peasant farmers themselves feel is happening, and it is a serious problem in feeding the nation. Therefore, one of my administration's aims, which we achieved in spite of inflation and unforeseen developments such as the "coffee boom," was to boost peasant farmer wages in relation to urban wages. Pay for peasant farmers was boosted 30 percent in relation to urban wages. In fact, the unions that represent peasant farmers are now talking about leveling out urban and rural wages so that the mirage of higher pay in the city does not uproot our peasant farmers. Nevertheless, I do not think that this is enough. As I have announced in many places, the aim of my policy, which we have studied in depth, is to focus the government's efforts on helping to grow food, in particular 13 items that are basic to the diet of the Colombian people and to the household budget.

We already know that low-income people spend half their earnings on food in areas in which food supplies are plentiful and up to 58 percent in cities like Pasto. In other words, more than half of a family's income is earmarked for food.

Strawberries, pears or maracuya? No. I am going to list 13 food items and then explain to you how we plan to boost their production. They are meat, milk, rice, corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, soybeans, brown sugar loaf, sugar, bananas, yucca, eggs and sorghum.

These 13 items make up half of a family's food bill, which as I just said, takes up half of its earnings. These 13 items are very different, because some are grown on hillsides and small plots, such as beans, yucca or bananas, while others are produced by almost industrial methods, on vast level lands, such as rice, sesame and wheat. So then, our idea is to find ways to boost the production of these items so that there is a plentiful supply of them on the market at stable prices that are profitable to the peasant farmers and that at the same time enable people to spend more money on manufactured goods, because at present much of what workers and low-income people earn goes for food.

When people talk to me about getting the economy moving again, which I plan to discuss later on, I think that freeing up spending by reducing the share of foodstuffs in the family budget is going to enable us to reactivate our industries.

Technological Research

But as I said, we have a plan to combat high prices with these 13 items, which present major differences depending on whether they are produced on small plots or vast farms.

When they are grown on vast stretches of land, major technological research is involved. Varieties have been developed that are much more productive and insect-resistant. Is there anyone who is unaware of how sugar cane output has been boosted through the assistance, research and technical advisory services of the pertinent trade union?

Who can ignore the strides we have made in rice growing, where production per hectare is up threefold over the past 15 years, thanks to the very active role of the National Rice Growers Federation and the government?

But we have not done any research at all in other fields. We have not looked into why lentils are no longer grown in Colombia, why we have to import beans, why this country, which should be a major corn producer, has to bring it in from Argentina. In addition, varieties such as yellow corn and pira corn have disappeared.

I would like to tell you what has been happening in the area of research so that we can rectify our course. For some time now, the funds earmarked for research and for the ICA [Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute] have been suffering cutbacks. Thus, we have one of the lowest research funding budgets in the Americas, even though we urgently need research so that we can stop importing so much. We used to spend about one percent of our national budget on research, in other words, on ICE funding. Today we are at 0.52 percent, while countries like Bolivia earmark almost 1.5 percent, not to mention the United States, which spends 3.5 percent of its budget on research. So then, we are going to expand the ICA's funding and make a major effort in connection with these products, whose production is still lagging, in a bid to find insect-resistant varieties and varieties that yield the most per hectare. The case of corn comes to every Colombian's mind, because we cannot continue to import corn as a result of mistaken policies such as bringing in subsidized wheat for years to supply IDEMA, when the price of wheat was made competitive with that of corn, and people got used to eating wheat instead of corn. This subsidy, which helped IDEMA in a way, was bad for corn. We are once again going to undertake an operation like the one that Dr Barco did several years ago, entitled "Operation Corn," so that we can once more be self-sufficient in this item.

"New Agricultural Frontier"

But research is not enough. We also have to seek out new land, what we call the "new agricultural frontier." This is why I have proposed reclaiming, as soon as possible, many areas that are seasonally flooded. I had the opportunity to see them when I took my trip along the Magdalena River. I had read about this in books but during those memorable 8 days that I spent traveling along the Magdalena River I had the chance to see it for myself. Some 800,000 hectares could be reclaimed for production in what is called the marshy region of the river. And this goes for Arauca, Caqueta and other regions as well, where the problem is not drainage, but making the land suitable for irrigation.

We are going to put forth a major effort to boost Colombia's production by increasing the yield per seed and per hectare. But this is not the whole story. This puts us only halfway down the road. There is the problem of credit and soft credit, crop development credit and marketing credit too, because we cannot maintain the system of encouraging the peasant farmers to produce and then, when the harvests are ready, of pushing them to sell right away by keeping them from getting loans to hold back their crops for a while or store or preserve them, in the case of crops that spoil quickly, like yucca, or that sprout, like potatoes. So then, we are going to try to set up a new credit line alongside the farm development credit line, specifically a farm marketing credit line to help the farmers who have already harvested their crops so that they do not have to dispose of them quickly to satisfy the desire to reduce the cost of living in the second half of the year at the expense of farmers. We are going to have sufficient stocks, either imported at times or grown here at home, so that we do not put our tenant farmers through the ordeal of encouraging them to buy and then encouraging them to sell as quickly as possible, thus preventing them from selling their crops off gradually, while they make their money back on a multiple harvest.

The real problem in Colombia, as we can see, is marketing, which causes much of what is not consumed to go to waste. Much of the potential impact on prices has to do with sizable crop spoilage. Sometimes it is because of poor prices, as in the case of potatoes, which many farmers would rather not pull out of the ground. Other times it is because they lack the means to preserve them, and still others because the funds for holding them back have been gradually shrinking. Over the past few years (I must take the blame here again), the number of loans for the storage of farm produce has been cut, with the inevitable upshot of the ups and downs and wide swings that are so characteristic of potato farming. For example, one year we see enormous crops and low prices, and the next year the harvest is not big enough and prices go through the roof.

On my trips around the country I have been able to see for myself that people are quite aware of this problem, which boils down to the fact that the population, particularly the urban population, is growing faster than farm production. In only one year, 1978, did we achieve satisfactory production, comparable to Argentina's, comparable in terms of growth (eight percent), according to the United States Department of Commerce.

This shows us that with a policy like this, our 13-item policy, we could eventually achieve four percent annual growth in food production, which is higher than the rate of increase in consumption and population.

We are also faced with the so-called industrial standstill. I think that is partly due to a phenomenon of growth. We are living in a new dimension in Colombia; we have resources, we have capital, we have financial middlemen that we never even dreamed of before.

To think that when I was a minister under Dr Carlos Lleras, our import budget was around \$600 million a year and today we have dollar reserves of \$5 billion!

All of this leads us to think that a boom like this will last forever, which it cannot. It is with the same spirit in which I administered the coffee boom, anticipating that "bust" cycles would come, which the governments of Central America and General Rojas Pinilla did not do, it is with this spirit that we have to revive our economy today.

Smuggling

I have asked industrialists and farmers: What do you think about reviving the economy? They all agree that it has to be revived and they have mentioned to me the factors involved in this recession, because after totally satisfactory growth in the last few years, we have begun a decline that is quite widespread. They have talked to me about the problem of interest rates and the problem of imports, in other words, the problem that is generally known as smuggling. I would like to stress that there are many ways of combating smuggling. It is not just a question of police or customs patrol boats. We also have to adjust the foreign exchange rate of our currency, as we have been doing, but perhaps at a faster pace, but also without engaging in massive devaluations because in that case the products from countries where the devaluation is the sharpest cannot compete with Colombian goods and will be brought in as contraband. I think that the biggest stimulus to smuggling is our high exchange rate.

As the Liberal platform says, we are going to combat smuggling by selecting what kind of imports can come into Colombia and what kind would hurt our industrial development. But the recovery is already obviously in progress. I have been quite pleased to see how the current administration has sought to revive the construction industry with measures that have not yet had the time to bear fruit, how around 5 billion pesos in credit has been made available to heavy industry and how cotton growers have also gradually gotten around 5 billion pesos in aid from the government to extend their loan payback periods, to expand their acreage, to refinance their trade unions, and how our textile dealers have also been helped by the government. But sometimes there are factors that are beyond the control of governments, such as the prices that cotton has reached: 55 cents a pound (the lowest price since the American Civil War), when a price of more than 75 cents a pound is needed to make a profit, because of the rise in the price of inputs, wages and transportation. But I am willing to listen to any sort of suggestion, any sort of advice on how to get interest rates down, on how to cut other costs, such as, for example, replacing pesticides and fungicides with biological controls, which have already begun to be used for some crops, like cotton.

As far as interest rates are concerned, I think that we have to set a ceiling by decree, with some sort of sanctions, but not too low, because people who invest their money do not want to invest it at rates that hardly seem profitable. But we also have to continue government investment to promote and develop industry, as we have been doing, but we could do a great deal more to stimulate certain export industries, through PROEXPO [Export Promotion Fund] credits, for example.

Lastly, one of the problems that many people complain about is the concentration of wealth. No one is more aware of the problem of concentration of wealth than I am, because it is precisely because Colombia has gotten rich, because certain sectors have gotten rich, as a result of the high coffee prices that brought money streaming into Colombia, that this phenomenon of concentration of wealth has become obvious. It is not that it did not exist before; it did, but on a small scale, in the form of monopolies.

At present, the concentration of wealth has taken on a new dimension, precisely because this wealth exists. People are buying up companies and forming conglomerates. We Liberals have proposed, at times while in power, institutions such as the Securities Commission and the decree regulating private savings, which prohibits their use to acquire control over other industrial enterprises instead of being earmarked for new productive enterprises.

Above all, however, we plan to amend Law 45 of 1923, which was fine for Colombia's little banks at the time but is obsolete now. We are going to regulate the entire system of conglomerates, making them mutually responsible and establishing penalties more drastic than just fines, such as taking away the licenses of financial institutions that abuse their prerogatives.

As I told you, I propose to address the social problem in my next talk, the social problem that is tied in with security and that I think has more to do with jobs than many imagine.

Good night.

Galan Criticizes Fiscal Irresponsibility

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 May 82 pp 1-A, 1-B

[Text] Presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento said last night that the most important thing right now is to resolve the jobs problem. He also offered to help alleviate the situation of the small landowners and farmers who are in debt to the Agrarian Bank and INCORA [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute].

In his next to last televised speech, Galan Sarmiento outlined his economic, financial, tax, agricultural and industrial programs, as he had announced in his response to the private sector trade unions last week.

"As long as the government itself is incapable of organizing its own finances," he said, "it will be much less capable of responsibly managing the economy in those areas in which it has the authority to intervene and provide guidance for production sectors."

The following is Galan Sarmiento's speech to the national television audience:

Two weeks ago I announced that I would discuss economic issues. I am going to, but first I would like to give some good news to the various sectors that are backing my candidacy, to the friends and comrades around the country who are working for the program of renewal that we are putting forth. On 30 April we took a count of the municipalities in which there was a New Liberalism organization. We found that whereas on 14 March we were in only 400 municipalities, today we are in more than 700, and we think that by 15 May we will be in practically all of them. With this in mind, I would like to invite those who live in municipalities, districts or neighborhoods in which there is not yet a formal New Liberalism organization, to help set up a committee and to get in touch with the coordinators and organizers in the capitals of the various departments.

Lopez and Betancur: The Status Quo

I would also like to talk about the specific political alternatives that have been outlined for the country during the television debates and the recent political process. The country is going to decide between two paths. Either it is going to continue where it is headed or it is simply going to take a new course. The former is represented by Drs Lopez Michelsen and Belisario Betancur. They are the candidates from the machines of the two traditional parties. Dr Lopez Michelsen has openly expressed his solidarity with the current administration and his support for the economic and social policies that this government is pursuing. Dr Betancur has stated on television that he does not share the leanings of this administration and that he is proposing new alternatives. His position is contradictory, however, because he was chosen by forces that are completely committed to these two administrations. For example, Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado supports Dr Belisario Betancur. Over the past 8 years, the presidents of Colombia have been unable to make any basic social, economic or political decisions without taking into account the opinion of Dr Gomez Hurtado, who has been represented in the respective ministerial cabinets.

Are we moving towards a third government subordinate to the opinions of Dr Gomez Hurtado? What kind of relationship is there between Dr Belisario Betancur and Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado? I am not talking about a personal relationship, but about Dr Betancur's opinion of the ideas that Dr Gomez espouses in the fields of economic development, government organization and the way to deal with the major public problems during these 8 years.

Moreover, Dr Betancur is the candidate of the Conservative machines, which are just as or more patronage-oriented than the machines of the ruling Liberal Party. There is patronage in both parties. I have fought against both of them and I have the right to do so because I have not been part of the recent governments nor have I been in their cabinets or involved in their basic decision-making.

As I promised, however, I am going to talk about the country's economy. In order to analyze the situation and the conditioning factors in tackling Colombia's major social problems, we have to focus on two overall issues: How is the job situation in the country and how are the government's finances? In one way or another, everything in the economy boils down to these two issues. If there are well-paid, stable and productive jobs, it means that the various economic policies are achieving their main goals. If not, then obviously these policies have failed. Likewise, if the government successfully manages its revenues, if it is solvent, invests soundly and is efficiently running public services, then we can expect that the economy as a whole will be on the right track.

Unemployment: The 1980's and Women

What is the employment situation like in our country? You need only go to any city in Colombia, a medium-sized city or a department capital, to see the extent of urban underemployment and unemployment; how the number of peddlers is increasing; the proliferation of other manifestations of underemployment, and the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have to take any poor-paying job they can get, just to survive. The country has seen the developments of recent years: how more and more children from ages 8 to 14 and the elderly are having to work because of the inadequacy of family income, the meager wages of the individual who is normally the breadwinner, even if both husband and wife work. All of this reflects the seriousness of the problem. Moreover, jobs should be the most important concern of any government, because the situation is going to get worse in the years to come, for one reason: In the wake of the country's rapid population growth in the 1950's and 1960's, the country's labor force, the people between 16 and 59, is expanding very quickly, and many more people are going to be wanting jobs without there being a strategy and a suitable economic framework for providing them. This is compounded by the fact that more women are going to be seeking jobs than in the past, because they are having fewer children and because women are going to be better prepared and have the understandable ambition to enter the job market to enhance the family income and to realize their potential in their profession or field in which they are trained. For all of these reasons, the next administration will be facing an enormous demand for jobs, much higher than during the most recent administrations.

The Budget Deficit and the Next Administration

If we take a look at government, at government finances, we find an equally complex and difficult panorama. The government right now is living in a world of fiscal make-believe. The government is facing a deficit of more than 60 billion pesos, according to official figures, and potentially of around 100 billion pesos, according to very respectable analysts who have looked into the true extent of the government's fiscal problem. To sidestep or, rather, to cover up this problem, the government has resorted to overseas borrowing and arranged loans that are earmarked to pay for a bureaucracy or to cover the outlays associated with the provision of regular government services, not to invest and develop the country.

Bonds have been issued. This is a critical point for the Colombian economy and one of the causes of the disarray in recent years. Our much-talked-about interest rates, for example, are in a way a result of this disarray in government spending and of the various bonds that the government has issued to defray its operating expenditures. Government spending is marked by excessive bureaucracy and corruption. The deficit is jeopardizing the stability of the administration and poses the most serious problem that the next president will find on his desk on 7 August, regardless of who he is.

Public Services and the Middle Class

There are also very serious public services and rates problems facing the government. The government is in charge of providing water, electric power, telephone service, etc. But when these utilities are not well programmed, when the institutions handling them are bloated bureaucracies because of the pressure for patronage by the Liberals and Conservatives who can influence them, then these enterprises go bankrupt or have to pass on their higher operating costs to customers. Public services have gotten extremely expensive under this administration. We are now seeing the tragedy of a middle class that has to spend between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 months of its annual earnings to pay for water, electric power and telephone service. In a word, public utilities are becoming an extremely heavy burden for middle- and low-income families.

Putting Our House in Order

If these are the two major issues, jobs and managing government revenue, its financial status, let's take a look at what ought to be done to reorganize the country's economy. What are the key points on which we should take action.

In the first place, the government has to put its financial house in order. As long as the government itself is incapable of organizing its own finances, it will be much less capable of responsibly managing the economy in those areas in which it has the authority to intervene

and provide guidance for production sectors. Two things are necessary to put its house in order: a just tax system and revamping public spending.

A Fair Tax System

The tax system must be made fair, because in a nutshell the 1974 Tax Reform and the whole patchwork of tax relief measures that Liberal and Conservative members of Congress have passed and that Liberal and Conservative ministers have defended, this entire tax system has failed. It does not work. Evasion is enormously widespread, above all among the independently wealthy, because Colombians wage-earners, the people with fixed income or white-collar workers cannot evade taxes because they are subject to the withholding-at-the-source system and to the other controls guaranteeing their coverage by the tax system. Our national tax system is very unfair, and not just because labor is punished more than capital. There is also injustice within the capital sphere. An honest businessman, a serious, well-run business cannot evade taxes. In contrast, speculative capital, financing capital and underground capital are evading taxes on a dramatic scale, to the detriment of the State and the services it provides.

Examples of Waste

With regard to government spending, there has obviously not been enough belt-tightening or spending guidelines. This even has to do with the example that ranking government officials should set, for example, the president of the republic and congressmen, who have been far from responsible in their behavior. I do not think that what President Turbay did, for example, can be considered responsible when he took off to Europe for more than a month with a gigantic retinue that entailed heavy outlays for the Treasury. This created a climate in the administration, among governors and among managers of decentralized institutions in which after observing the chief executive's behavior, they felt authorized to do likewise on their own scale.

More than 200 Colombian congressmen a year, almost all of them belonging to the dominant machines in the parties, take overseas trips that entail per diem allowances of 15,000 pesos. These things are often denounced, but the country's government officials and leaders who have influence in Congress in recent years have not moved vigorously to rectify the situation.

Regaining Our National Market

In addition to putting the government's financial house in order, we have to regain our market. What do I mean by this? I mean that the national foodstuffs, clothing and manufactured goods market is in the hands of foreign producers. We all know that farm imports

have risen, not always because of the inadequacy of the national system but often because of makeshift government measures, because of vested interests that push for such imports, that manipulate prices and take advantage of the country's general economic disarray.

Moreover, smuggling has reached scandalous proportions in our country, to the detriment of domestic production and industry. I am not talking about traditional smuggling, so to speak, which occurs in certain areas of Colombia. I am talking about massive contraband, large-scale smuggling associated with or the consequence of the mistaken economic policies that recent administrations have pursued.

Industry and Jobs

Colombian industry holds the key to creating more jobs in the country. To the extent that industry is strong, there will be jobs in the cities, either because industry will generate them directly or because the very presence of the factories means jobs in the various services sectors, banking and the other activities that serve industry.

In any case, our industry has been completely neglected over the past 8 years. It has been practically persecuted by the economic policies of recent administrations. And it was Liberal and Conservative ministers who worked out these policies. Even though Dr Belisario Betacur would like to forget it, there was a Conservative finance minister who had input in these policies, as well as a national planning director and several development ministers who also voiced their views on decontrolling imports and adopted all these measures that have led to the current breakdown of Colombian industry.

How can we get industry back on its feet? The only way is to protect it, to support it with the economic tools that the government has available, such as tax measures, international trade, etc. But an unprotected industry in the condition that Colombian industry is in today cannot meet our population's job needs, productive jobs, real jobs in particular. Support means other things too. It means that the government should arrange its purchases with an eye towards the potential for producing capital goods here at home, as is the case with electric power development and as could be the case with other government outlays, because there is no reason for it to import certain items that ought to be manufactured by domestic industry.

Small Coffee Growers

Alongside this we have certain key farm sectors that need special attention. With regard to coffee, there are certain basic ideas that are already sufficiently well-known. I would only like to stress the importance of protecting the small coffee growers, who have been the victims of the faulty coffee policies over the last 8 years and of the trend towards the concentration of land holdings in coffee growing zones. The coffee growers who did not get enough support

to assimilate the new production systems of the "caturra" and the associated costs for fertilizers, day wages and other services, need support, refinancing and protection. Otherwise, what has been happening in the notary offices in Armenia, Pereira and Manizales is going to continue, where small coffee plantations are being sold off by many people who have to surrender their assets to pay off their debts to banks or simply to survive.

A New Stage in the Agrarian Reform

There are many basic issues in agriculture, but the starting point is reform of our landownership systems. We need to modernize land distribution in the country based on updated approaches in keeping with today's realities, taking into account, of course, the experiences of the 1960's in bringing agrarian reform up to date. We have to protect the existing agricultural enterprises and the medium-sized farm owners as well. The large-landed estates, however, the ones covering 1,000 or 1,500 hectares, ought to be taken over by the State to protect the peasant farmers, give them land and insure their survival and jobs.

Preparing for Our Future Economy

A third point has to do with preparing for the country's future economy. We have to give timely consideration to what is going to happen this decade and the next decade in Colombia. Such things cannot be improvised; they involve decisions by the next administration that are going to have a major impact for at least 10 or 20 years. Sound energy development, sound electric power development and sound oil development are vital issues that require decisions by the next administration to meet the country's needs in the years to come. These issues require nationalist policies, policies of firm support for our national patrimony, as well as a defense of national interests in the case of oil, coal and uranium. When we have to negotiate with foreign capital, we must do so on honorable terms for the country, which means protecting our natural resources and making good use of the opportunities provided by the wealth in our subsoil. We also have to plan for large-scale mining development this decade and next. Such development cannot be improvised; it entails studies on what our subsoil contains. We Colombians do not know what our subsoil holds. Foreign companies know more about this, and this is why the multinational corporations are the ones that propose to the government contractual terms that are often not the best for the country. The country has no bargaining capacity in such transactions, because the government has no idea of the resources that are the object of the negotiations.

There are other vital areas for Colombia's future in which the next government ought to intervene. One of them is the modernization of the national transportation system, in other words, the ports system and railway network, where the major efforts of recent years should

be rounded out and intensified, airport development, the development of river transport, the overhaul of railroads. These are matters that are going to require clear-cut decisions by the next administration if we are really going to make a sweeping economic change and modernize the country.

Production Instead of Speculation

The fourth basic change that I propose is to overcome the climate of speculation surrounding the Colombian economy. There are two very specific areas here that the country has to work on. In the first place, we need a financial reform designed to regulate private and public savings, which have been abusively utilized by the large financial groups during the trend towards concentration of wealth over the past few years. We have to establish what constitutes a conflict of interest for banks and other financial institutions to prevent them from investing in activities in which they jeopardize production sectors or which entail an accumulation of power that runs contrary to the interests of the majority of the Colombian people. We also need a major change in corporations, so that they again afford us the possibility of democratic savings. Corporations are plagued with serious problems such as the situation of the small stockholders who have dominated them, as well as problems involving dividends and double taxation, which has discouraged investment in corporations and been an additional factor in the weakening of Colombian industry.

Loan Rollovers and Reserves for Social Security Benefits

I would like to highlight certain other points tonight also. Throughout the country I have found that small landowners and small and medium farmers are heavily in debt and need to roll over their loans, especially the people who owe money to INCORA and the Agrarian Bank, because they are in arrears due to the mistaken farm policies of recent administrations that gave rise to drops in prices and heavy losses. I also feel that the country must strictly monitor the social security benefits reserves of Colombian industries. We cannot continue to have a rash of business bankruptcies in which they resort to final legal remedies to circumvent the rights of workers, who are being left without severance pay and retirement pensions. We have seen the tragic cases of Aerocondor and many garment and textile businesses that did not have large enough reserves, causing serious social problems when they went bankrupt because of neglect by the government agencies that are supposed to monitor reserves and balance sheets.

Who Holds Economic Power?

In essence, economic change entails determined intervention by the government to reorganize its own finances and to control the country's large financial groups. The fact is that if we ask ourselves today who holds economic power in Colombia, the answer is that on the one hand, the government has it through the management of its own revenues

and, on the other, the large groups that accumulated wealth in recent years wield it. The overwhelming majority of Colombians have no economic power, and thus all of the social and political promises made to them are meaningless as long as access to economic resources and production systems is not democratized. We have to develop a desire to excel and to be creative in the Colombian economy. Workers and peasant farmers must have the feeling that their jobs are secure, and businessmen must be given the feeling that if they launch companies or modernize in one economic sector or another, they are not engaging in a blind venture but rather have the backing of clear-cut government policies towards the nation's major production sectors.

I ask the country to conceive of the next administration as one that coordinates the efforts of Colombians, and if I am elected president, it will be. The next administration must not arrogantly and haughtily impose solutions or offer impossible overnight miracles; it must instead be realistic, coordinating Colombia's resources and organizing the entire nation's efforts to serve the interests of society.

Next week I will talk about foreign policy problems, rounding out what I think must be done to forge a new Colombia, based on the necessary political, social, economic and foreign policy changes.

8743

CSO: 3010/1618

'ADO' SUBVERSIVE LEADER CAPTURED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 May 82 pp 1-2

[Text] The Military Institutes Brigade (BIM) have arrested subversive leader Adelaida Abadia Rey, a member of the urban command of the self-styled Workers Self-Defense Movement (ADO), which is pro-Chinese in orientation, who took part in the assassination of former minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas.

This rebel militant was among the individuals most wanted by the courts of the country after her spectacular escape 2 years ago, while being escorted by three guards on an urban bus from the Buen Pastor jail to the military court pursuing the investigation into the death of former minister Pardo Buelvas.

Her escape was aided by members of the ADO, who intercepted the bus on which she was being transported on 30 January 1980 at the intersection of 31st Road and 78th Street to the north of the city.

Adelaida Abadia Rey, who is charged with the crime of homicide in connection with the death of former minister Pardo Buelvas, was arrested by BIM investigators while in the company of her sister Constanza Abadia Rey and other individuals being investigated.

The recaptured guerrilla fighter is listed in the records of secret state bodies as one of the important individuals in the ADO, and also as the wife of Alfredo Enrique Camelo Franco, who was convicted of having shot the former minister to death, and who after trial by the military criminal court was sentenced and transferred to the Gorgona Island prison, where he is presently confined.

In addition to being sought to answer for the crime against the Conservative leader and former state minister, this subversive militant was wanted by various jurisdictions on charges of association for criminal purposes and bank robberies.

On 29 August 1979, she was sentenced in absentia by a verbal court martial on charges of crimes of rebellion. She was found guilty and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment.

On 16 November 1979, she was arrested by F2 units at the intersection of 15th Road and 77d Street, while in the process, in the company of Myriam Amaya,

Orlando Perez Lopez and her brothers Edgardo and Hector Fabio, of robbing a branch of the Bank of Bogota of the sum of 439,000 pesos in cash.

On that occasion, F2 agents found a long-barreled 38 revolver, a 9 mm Walter pistol, two explosive artifacts, an aerosol can of black paint, five sacks of fabric and one of canvas, woolen balaclavas and a substantial quantity of ADO propaganda in her possession.

5157

CSO: 6131/1

M-19 TAKES HOSTAGES TO EFFECT ROBBERY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 May 82 p 3-A

[Article by Juan Jose Hoyos]

[Excerpt] Medellin, 15 May--An M-19 unit robbed the home of the paymaster general district No 1 of the Ministry of Public Works, and after holding his wife, two children and a driver working for the district hostage for about 6 hours, forced the official to take a still unspecified sum of money, intended for the payroll for ministry employees in the department of Antioquia, from the bank.

It was stated unofficially that the money stolen by the guerrilla fighters might total 15 million pesos. However, the agents of the National Police Intelligence Service in charge of the case revealed that the command only succeeded in taking 1.2 million pesos.

But in statements made to the RCN radio network, a ministry auditor stated that the sum stolen exceeded 7 million pesos.

The guerrillas went to the home of Paymaster General Marco Aurelio Olarte Zapata, 45, at about 6:30 in the morning.

According to statements made to the police, the command included about eight men, dressed in athletic sweatshirts and pants, who were carrying several bunches of bananas. The unidentified individuals were armed with machine-guns and grenades, and they locked themselves in the home with Olarte Zapata, his wife, Alba Munoz de Olarte, and their daughter, Alba Margarita Olarte.

To begin with, the guerrillas seized a black suitcase containing money which had been withdrawn from the offices of a bank by the Ministry of Public Works official the preceding day.

They then forced Olarte to call the bank and say that he would appear to withdraw a further sum later. Meanwhile, two of the guerrillas seized Arturo Aurelio, the 15-year-old son of Olarte, and took him to a location near Medellin, after saying that they would release once the operation had been completed.

Four other guerrilla fighters accompanied Olarte to the bank, traveling with him in a white Renault 4 passenger vehicle.

A Ministry of Public Works driver identified as Guillermo Palacio, who arrived at Olarte's home to pick him up just before 10 in the morning, was also forced at gunpoint to enter the house and join the captive members of the family.

Some of the neighbors in the Santa Monica neighborhood, which is in the western part of the city, saw the ministry truck parked in front of the residence all morning, but suspected nothing of what was happening inside the Olarte family home.

5157

CSO: 6131/1

SAN ANDRES, PROVIDENCIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 May 82 p 6-B

[Article by Jaime Horta]

[Text] San Andres (Island)--Today the government made public here a tourism development plan for San Andres and Providencia which includes an investment of about \$500 million for hotel construction and the financing of infrastructure works.

The plan was presented by the general manager of the Bank of the Republic, Rafael Gama Quijano, during a speech to the San Andres community. Afterward the minister of development Gabriel Melo Guevara, described it as the most ambitious plan put forth by the government for the archipelago.

In his speech, Gama Quijano said that a corporation for the development of San Andres will be established to channel funds from the National Tourism Corporation and the Export Promotion Fund (PROEXPO) for the financing of projects such as water desalinization, electrification and water treatment for every establishment requesting them, provided their purpose is the export of services, such as hotels.

To the extent that hotels or convention centers resolve their water or electricity supply problems, additional productive capacity will be released for the island community, thereby solving two problems with one action.

He also revealed the establishment of a special fund which initially will total \$220 million, with contributions from the public and private sectors, for the completion of two large hotels on San Andres, whose construction has been suspended: the Aquarium and the Dann.

In the case of the Aquarium Hotel, this will be the first five-star hotel on the island which will also have an international convention center with accommodations for 500 delegates, according to the general manager of the Bank of the Republic.

With respect to the Dann Hotel, the financing plan has not yet been normalized; but it is expected that the stockholders will finalize their initiative.

Banks

The general manager also reported the opening of branches of the Bank of the Republic and the People's Bank on Providencia Island; the regularization of a transport system between San Andres and Providencia and the construction of public libraries on the two islands to service the native population.

8143

CSO: 3010/1617

NEW BEACONS BEING INSTALLED ON ARCHIPELGAO

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 18 May 82 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Article by German Hernandez]

[Text] Albuquerque Cay--Marine Private Perez, dressed in camouflage fatigues, is standing beneath a coconut tree at 1800 hours. Evening comes so quickly on Albuquerque Cay, which is located 21 miles from San Andres Island, that the soldier barely has time to walk the scant 50 paces which separate the two shores of the cay before shadows begin to penetrate the foliage and darken that small piece of land which is surrounded by the sea on all sides.

It is not hot. However, when Private Perez turns to once again make his rounds, he is blinded by a powerful beam of light which cuts through the darkness and flashes seaward toward Cartagena. This is the beam of the solar beacon which was officially inaugurated by Capt Humberto Cubillos Ortiz, of the National Navy, last Saturday as part of a program to renovate the navy's lighting system on the San Andres and Providencia Archipelago.

However, in addition to possessing more advanced technology and requiring less costly maintenance, the solar beacon is somewhat like a new symbol of refreshing national sovereignty on the Caribbean Sea, as it seems to have converted this cay into a veritable fantasy island: now it is a coconut tree-lined park dotted with 5,000 seashells and bounded by beaches of very fine sand. It is a small paradise situated in the 658,000 square kilometers of waters which Colombia possesses in the Atlantic Ocean.

Reinforcements Have Arrived

In a period of less than 30 days, 10 beacons similar to the one placed in service on Albuquerque Cay will be installed at strategic points throughout the archipelago. The change in the lighting system, which will cause the disappearance of that nostalgic cylindrical and distant lighthouse in which a single keeper resided, the prisoner of his own thoughts, is part of a new naval patrol plan for the Caribbean Sea.

In fact, the region is patrolled by navy ships such as the ARC Quindio or the Rodrigo de Bastidas, whose men maintain surveillance over the coast night and day whether to capture smuggling fishing boats or to transport supplies

for soldiers such as Private Perez who are assigned on a rotating basis to Albuquerque Cay for exactly 1 month. What is more, the region has been reinforced by a considerable number of new weapons and men; however, precise figures are not available because of tactical military reasons. These actions were taken in response to rumors of alleged threats of invasion by other countries, rumors which were started in the wake of the Malvinas war and which increased after the well-publicized "explosions" on San Andres, the source of which has not yet been determined.

Toasted Solar Energy

This same military reinforcement plan for the zone is also being used to explain why an end was put to the legendary aged and isolated traditional lighthouses. Now the contingent of marine infantrymen performs surveillance duties on Albuquerque Cay and also has the legendary mission of lighting the powerful solar reflector. The beacon, however, is smaller than the one which existed previously. It is situated on a metallic structure painted with black and white stripes and was designed by the Tideland Signal Corporation, Houston, Texas.

The cost of the beacon is less than 500,000 Colombian pesos. It consists of an electricity generator which feeds six storage batteries by means of a photo electric cell. This makes possible the storage of electric energy while the beacon toasts itself in the Caribbean sun during the day. It has six bulbs which are capable of casting a beam a distance of 18 miles seaward in the direction of Cartagena and which can last up to 10 years without a single filament of this new type of energy producer burning out.

Let Them Not Set Foot on the Cays

Serranilla is a cay located 240 miles northeast of San Andres which is two and one-half times larger than this island. Bajonuevo is what is geographically known as a sandbar; it is 13 miles long and 6 miles wide. As for Serrana, it is a cay located 132 miles from the island and is 18 miles long and 5 miles wide. Quitasueno, one of the largest sandbars, is of similar length as the one between Bogota and Chia; however, in addition to sand, it has four ships rusted by seawater which have been run aground on its surface. It is 12 miles wide. Roncador consists of 28 square miles of surface; and Bolivar Cay, situated 21 miles southeast of San Andres, is 7 miles long and 3 miles wide.

The continental shelf created by these cays and sandbars is the equivalent for Colombia of a little more than half of the country's total expanse. They constitute 586,000 square kilometers of fishing and ichthyological resources and according to some researchers potentially contain oil. That is the reason for the importance of the archipelagic region which also is a valuable strategical military point.

In the meantime, special Civil Defense reorganization programs are being developed on the island. Major Clavijo, the head of the CD organization on San Andres, has reported that at present courses for all kinds of emergencies

are being taught, including, naturally, an attempted invasion by any country. The intensification of these courses has become evident this year particularly because of a persistent rumor which has been making the rounds of the island: according to a tradition of the old islanders it is predicted that this year the tail of a Caribbean hurricane will "hit" the archipelago. However, Major Clavijo, who prides himself on being a calm man, advises that San Andres has the best natural defense against that kind of calamity, namely the coral formations which surround the island and which are capable of withstanding not only hurricanes, typhoons and enemy troops but even an invasion of hungry crabs.

8143

CSO: 3010/1617

BRIEFS

FARC GUERRILLA CAPTURED--Villavicencio, 24 April--A guerrilla fighter of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was captured, while three others accompanying him succeeded in fleeing. The guerrilla fighter, identified as using the alias of Ezequiel Munoz, was arrested during a patrol operation undertaken by police units in the settlement of Maya, in the municipality of Cundinamarca, on the Meta boundary. The subversive individual arrested belongs to the FARC Seventh Front, the police revealed. He was immediately turned over to the authorities. [By Hector Leon Bedoya] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Apr 82 p 8-A] 5157 ~

CSO: 6131/1

OFFICIAL NOTES FOREIGN TRADE DECREASED SINCE 1980

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 May 82 p 19

[Text] The terms of trade of Costa Rica with other countries of Central America and Panama and with the rest of the world have suffered a marked decrease since 1980, Mr Olmedo Castro, director general of integration of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce, reported.

Mr Castro said that Costa Rica's total exports amounted to US\$ 952,500,000 in 1980 (28.0 percent to Central America and 72.0 percent to the rest of the world) and that in 1981 exports totalled US\$720,000,000 (25.1 percent to Central America and 74.9 percent to the rest of the world).

Import totals reached US\$1,490,000,000 in 1980, with 15 percent from Central America and 85.0 percent from the rest of the world.

In 1981 total imports added up to US\$967,000,000, 12.7 percent from Central America and Panama and the remaining 87.3 percent from the rest of the world.

The information Castro furnished encompassed statistical details of trade from 1977 to 1981. These data are summarized in the following table:

Costa Rica: Merchandise Trade by Area: Central America and the Rest of
The World.
1977 - 1981*

(Millions of US dollars--Percentages)

	Exports Total	Central America %	All Others %	Imports Total	Central America %	All Others %
1977	828.2	21.0	79.0	1,021.4	16.4	83.6
1978	826.2	21.0	79.0	1,186.4	17.0	83.0
1979	879.5	20.0	80.0	1,408.5	15.0	85.0
1980	952.5	28.0	72.0	1,490.3	15.0	85.0
1981	720.4	25.1	74.9	967.3	12.7	87.3

*As of September; date of the Central Bank corresponding through November are similar.

SOURCE: Director of Statistics and Census Office.

9928

CSO: 3010/1561

PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT TOTALS 105,905 MILLION COLONS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 May 82 p 4-A

[Lidiette Brenes de Charpentier]

[Text] Public Sector debt, including foreign and domestic obligations, reached 105,905 million colons as of 31 December 1981.

The data were released in the report of the Comptroller General of the Republic on the audit of public finances for the preceding year; it covers the central government as well as the autonomous and semiautonomous institutions which make up the public sector.

The debt of public financial institutions, which reached 57,128.8 million colons, is highlighted.

Nevertheless, the greatest increase in comparison with the previous year, 115 percent, was registered by public service organizations, such as the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), the university and others. In absolute terms this debt is 21,862 million colons.

As a standard of comparison, it can be stated that the debt level is four times greater than income, which reached 26,768 million colons.

Central Sector

The public sector is organized according to the function of the various institutions which make it up: the central government, public service institutes, non-financial public institutions and public financial institutions.

In total, the debt of the Central Government, including the Presidency and 15 ministries, was 25,410.1 million colons, registering an increase of 9,793.6 million colons, that is, 62.7 percent.

Domestic debt was 13,698.2 million colons and foreign debt, 11,711.9 million. The former experienced a 22.5 percent increase, while the foreign debt rise was 164.1 percent.

According to the Comptroller General's Office, such a significant growth in foreign debt is, for the most part, the result of the adjustment to the new type of official exchange.

The highest amount of domestic debt is held by the CCSS, to which the government owes 1,143.6 million colons. Interest of 200,862 million colons [as published] is owed to other institutions and unpaid legal loans amount to 34,800 million colons.

Service Institutes

Among the decentralized organizations the most numerous are those which form the public service institute sector, which in addition to those already mentioned are, the National Training Institute, the Mixed Institute of Social Welfare (IMAS) and others which provide services in health, tourism, public utility rate control and planning.

For these the debt increased by 106 percent, rising from 727.4 million colons in 1980 to 1,502.1 million colons in 1981, which represented an absolute increase of 774.7 million colons.

Of the total amount, 35.5 percent is for foreign and 64.5 percent for domestic debt.

In three entities of this sector, the CCSS, the Agricultural Development Institute and the University of Costa Rica- 77.6 percent of the total was concentrated, the Comptroller General's Office said.

Goods Producers

The non-financial public enterprise sector includes organizations whose principal activity is the production or sale of goods and services, for example, the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE), the National Council of Production (CNP), the National Housing and Urbanization Institute (INVU) and others.

Taken all together, this sector accumulated a debt of 21,862 million colons as of 31 December 1981, greater by 11,722 million colons (115.6 percent) than that of the same date a year earlier.

This difference is composed of a growth in foreign debt of 10,949 million colons (106 percent) and of 772.8 million in domestic debt (23.4 percent).

The Comptroller General's Office mentioned that this debt level would have been higher had not the central government, as guarantor, assumed foreign obligations contracted by Costa Rica Railroads (RECOSA) and the Costa Rican Water and Sewage Institute when they could not meet payments.

As regards size of debt, ICE stands above all with 56.8 percent of the total. The proceeds, from direct foreign loans were used in finishing the Corobici hydroelectric project and for purchase of a TANDEM telephone exchange in order to handle inter-urban traffic.

The Costa Rican Petroleum Refinery (RECOPE) was second with 18 percent of the total and in third place were the subsidiaries of the Costa Rican Development Corporation (CODESA) with 14 percent of the total.

The Highest

The collection of public financial institutions (the Central Bank, the five state banks, the National Insurance Institute--INS) and others showed a debt total of 57,128.8 million colons, an increase of 89 percent over the 1980 level.

Foreign debt is 24,974 million colons, stemming mostly from the exchange adjustment.

The Comptroller General's Office asserted that the main increase in obligations were those of the Central Bank, which was faced with half of the debt of the sector, followed by the National Bank of Costa Rica, with 11,966 million colons.

9928

CSO: 3010/1561

TRANSMESA DEBT ESTIMATED AT 1.5 BILLION COLONS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 May 82 p 4-A

[Article by Rodolfo Martin]

[Text] The debts of the company, Transportes Metropolitanos S.A. (TRANSMESA), which in 1978 amounted to 55 million colons have risen to 1.5 billion, a source from the legislative committee which investigated this subsidiary of the Costa Rican Development Corporation (CODESA) revealed.

The legislative group began its investigations recently. One of its members, who requested not to be identified, said that the growth in this amount of TRANSMESA's debt was due basically to the purchase of 438 buses by the firm last year.

The informant also revealed that the committee uncovered what it considers administrative anomalies.

In turn, the TRANSMESA Manager, Mr Carlos Manuel Cabezas Cordoba, admitted that the firm has debts but not in the amount stipulated by the deputies.

Group

The investigation was assigned to a group headed by Luis Antonio Monge (Liberation - San Jose) which is made up of the following legislators, Jose Ademar Vega (Unity - San Jose), Ramon Corrales (Unity - Alajuela), Arturo Zuniga (Unity - Limon), and Enrique Arroyo (Liberation - Heredia). The committee, which is expected to complete its work by the end of next week, found that TRANSMESA embarked upon a huge purchase of buses which it now does not know how to dispose of, according to the source.

That is what is being said, even in the minutes of the committee, by CODESA's employees, and by the company itself, added the deputy.

Mr Cabezas Cordoba, however, said that the debt "was understandable" since the buses were purchased with dollars at an exchange rate of 8.60 colons to the dollar and the debt increased substantially with devaluation. The situation is difficult, he added, since TRANSMESA assumed an obligation which it cannot either reduce or cover because the buses are not being sold.

Due to the rise in cost of the vehicles, CODESA's subsidiary sent a number of options for improving the situation to the Council of Government.

The options mentioned concern changes in the government system of subsidies and fare hikes.

Nevertheless, Mr Cabezas Cordoba said a political decision had not yet been reached.

Possible Irregularities

Our informant, the deputy, pointed out that among possible administrative anomalies being probed was that employees from TRANSMESA paid sums greater than 200,000 colons for services that were never rendered. All the checks were cashed by the same person, who, with the collaboration of the OIJ, is being sought for questioning.

The parliamentarian maintained that there is conclusive evidence. He added that per diem was charged for meetings that never took place, overseas trips were made without the approval of the Board of Directors, salaries to disabled members were paid, and personal loans with the institution's money were made.

"The bid award for the buses allegedly was handled irregularly. Conditions were changed monthly, and there was a difference greater than 532,000 colons between the amount offered by private companies and the amount that TRANSMESA obligated itself to pay out," he asserted.

Mr Cabezas Cordoba explained that this variation was due to last minute improvements in design of the buses which had to be paid for.

Referring to the other anomalies, he said that he did not know the details since at the time the transgressions were allegedly committed he was not working for the company.

Tomorrow, Monday, a motion to analyse the possibility of sending the proceeding to the Public Ministry will be introduced in the investigative committee to see if it is necessary to press charges.

The committee will finish its work next Thursday, and on Monday of the following week, will deliver its report to plenary session, thereby concluding its work.

9928

CSO: 3010/1561

CHARLES BACKS COURTS, LAW IN ASSESSING CONSPIRACY TRIAL

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 5

[Text]

ROSEAU, Wed; (Cana):

PRIME MINISTER Eugenia Charles has told Dominicans not to seek justice "by our own hands," no matter how puzzled they were by decisions given in court.

When she addressed the nation last night on the outcome of the trial of four men, including ex-Prime

Minister Patrick John, charged with conspiring to overthrow the government by force of arms last year, Miss Charles called on citizens to continue to give their fullest support to the Police.

Last week, High Court Judge, Horace Mitchell, freed the four men, on the grounds that the evidence submitted by the Prosecution was manifestly unreliable. The Government appealed against the decision.

Yesterday, defence lawyers for the men — Mr John, Julian David, former Defence Force second in command, Malcolm Reid, and former Director of Public Broadcasting — and Information, Dennis Joseph — filed an objection to the Government's appeal.

ACCEPT DECISIONS

In her eight-minute address, Miss Charles said: "I think it is important to remind ourselves that we have adhered to the principles of democracy and intend to do so."

"No matter how difficult it is to understand the actions and opinions of some

persons in authority and some no longer in authority, we must not fail to act on the principle that democracy must prevail.

"For this reason, we must accept the decisions of courts, always reserving to ourselves the right to seek wisdom of the highest court."

"No matter how puzzled we are at some of the decisions given, we must not ever consider that we should seek justice by our own hands.

"We must forever be sure and respect the fact that there is a separation of the jobs to be done by, on the one hand, Government, hand, on the other hand, by the courts.

"We know that you are perturbed that persons who have been accused of plotting violence against the State are at large, although some of those (similarly accused) have been imprisoned in their lands, but this is the consequence of the democracy that we value so highly..."

(Her remark here is a reference to the U.S. mercenaries who were arrested in New Orleans, as they were about to set sail for Dominica and are now in

jail)

The Prime Minister said that although her ruling Dominica Freedom Party had been holding meetings, no mention was made on its platform of the trial of John and the other men.

"In this we followed the law. We will continue to hold public meetings, but until final conclusions of the case, we will make no reference to the facts of the law governing and decisions and ruling given in the case.

"We would like everyone to note this, and to obey the law in the same manner, because failure to do so will leave no other option but for the law to be imposed with heavy manners."

She said there was no need for the people to be doubtful or despondent, and that her Government would continue to do the work for which it was popularly elected.

She referred to a statement by Mr John to the media, soon after his release, that it was a victory for God and the people, and said: "We must always remember that victory by the people can only be given by the ballot box."

COMMENTATOR PROVIDES BROAD-BRUSH REVIEW OF ECONOMY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 May 82 p 4

[Article by Hubert Williams]

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S Grenada, (CANA) — Notwithstanding the Grenada Government's fears that mercenaries are being recruited and imperialism is sworn to destroying it, the most difficult challenge it faces lies with the island's highly vulnerable economy.

After spices, bananas, cocoa and tourism, there is precious little else on which to base the livelihood of the 110 000 islanders. Moreover, the major markets for these undoubted non-essentials are all in the capitalist states, away from which Grenada has swung ideologically.

Systems of farming, fishing and internal distribution are all rather primitive... "There's still too much of the 'Old Testament' methods," laments Finance Minister and influential ideologue Bernard Coard, as he expressed disgust with the country's colonial legacy.

Change will therefore have to be both rapid and rewarding if the leftwing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is to put material substance into its promise of a new prosperity, which generated widespread people's enthusiasm and support following the coup of March 13, 1979.

The administration recognises the enormity of the task ahead. It argues there is hardly a foundation on which to build. The foundation itself now has to be laid

An example of this feeling was given when a change was made in the styling of the National Thrust for 1982. First it was deemed "Year of Economic Re-construction" but then on re-consideration was amended to "Year of Economic Construction."

Coard explains why: "Our centuries of colonialism and the cold, joyless 28-years-long blast of 'Hurricane Gairy' (ousted Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy) had left us with virtually nothing. So we have to start from scratch to build our economy. And that is why we talk not about re-construction, but of construction."

What the government is attempting to implement in this small island nation is a unique new mix of political guile, managerial and technical skills, land, labour and capital, in a determined bid to get the best returns possible.

Agrarian reform is therefore at the core of state policies, as are re-organisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange, easier access to capital for domestic investment, and closer monitoring of both imports and exports.

The ways in which Grenada's new direction is being reflected are manifold:

— Legislation for the compulsory acquisition of large privately-owned land

holdings left out of productive use.

-Distribution of plots to peasants and conditions supportive of their husbandry.

-Establishment of a state trading corporation with monopoly in some areas of importation, distribution, and regulation of retail prices of such primary imports as sugar and rice, and essential inputs to agriculture like fertiliser.

-The burgeoning National Bank which in 30 months of operation has collared from the foreign-owned commercial branches more than one-third of all deposits.

Those and other state enterprises and a fledgling agro-industry are all new ventures set up since 1979.

There is thus presented the interesting possibility of Grenada's state sector, judged on the basis of its current dynamism, becoming the dominant segment of a three-tiered (state, private sector, and co-operatives) socialist economy without a resort to any significant nationalisation.

There's no turning back from the chosen path, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his Cabinet colleagues have emphasised.

After 400 years of private sector control of the economy, millions of mangoes and other fruit, some of it the most exotic varieties in the world, were still being left to rot under trees annually while farmers existed near the poverty level.

After 400 years of private sector control, it yet was left to the PRG to develop Grenadian salted fish from the local fishermen's catch, providing supplies for Grenadian housewives and producing surpluses to market in neighbouring islands.

The argo-industrial drive has produced a range of cosmetics, nectars and condiments for the local and export markets, and there was an impressive performance last year by the government's

modest but fairly modern plant which processes such fruits as mango, ~~sour-soup~~, pawpaw, guava, bananas, tamarind, nutmegs, peppers and others.

Figures for the first nine months of 1981 show the plant had bought just under 100 000 kilos of fruit from farmers for EC\$30 820 which went into a wide range of canned nectars, and bottled jams, jellies and condiments.

Overall sales value for the period was \$286 463.

The market was expanded to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Britain, the United States, Venezuela, Martinique, Suriname and Canada.

Agriculture employs nearly 12 000 people, about 40 per cent of the labour force, and last year contributed 29 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), up from 24.3 per cent the previous year.

Nutmeg production was 4.48 tons (US\$18.4 million), cocoa 6.22 tons (20 million) and bananas 28.09 tons (11.33 million), the comparable figures for 1980 being 3.98, 4.06 and 26.48 tons (8.6, 18.1 and 10.8 million dollars), respectively.

Overall, the economy recorded a 2.0 per cent growth, but the agriculture—fisheries—forestry sector grew by 5.0 per cent, against the 1.5 per cent decline of 1980. Inflation was 14.5 per cent compared with 23 per cent the previous year.

Construction, which rose a phenomenal 208 per cent in 1980 because of the huge Point Saline International Airport project which started that year, grew a further 14.5 per cent last year as work continued almost round-the-clock.

But the hotel and restaurant and wholesale and retail sub-sectors continued their decline, the first by 20 per cent and the others by 2.2 per cent, undoubtedly a reflection of the depressed tourism sector.

Tourism declined by 15 per cent, through a combination of factors, including recession in the economies of North America, the United Kingdom and Western Europe, high air fares and a disastrous fire at the island's biggest hotel — the Holiday Inn.

Twenty-one per cent of stayover visitors were from the U.S., 11.5 per cent from the U.K., 11.2 per cent from West Germany and 8.0 per cent from Canada. There has been a steadily increasing flow for the Commonwealth Caribbean, and Venezuela and Holland.

Tourism brings Grenada 50 per cent of its foreign earnings, with agriculture generating the other 50 per cent.

Of the input from agriculture, 97 per cent used to come from nutmegs, cocoa and bananas up to 1978, but that has now been reduced to 81.5 per cent as result of the revolution's drive towards diversifications.

As in other respects, there is heavy dependence on the West, but the regime feels there is nothing contradictory or risky about that situation.

"We believe" says Coard, "that the very first thrust by United States imperialism was to try to smash our tourist industry unless we refuse to have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

"It has been part of an incredible, orchestrated and coordinated campaign to destabilise Grenada."

He explained that "We are looking to those tourists who will come to Grenada in spite of the propaganda" as the government is convinced there are many people in the U.S. who sympathise with the aspirations of Grenada and its bold programme to restructure the economy.

BRIEFS

NUTMEG TO USSR--St George's, Grenada, Saturday, (CANA)--Grenada's nutmeg industry, in deep trouble because of a significant drop in sales in recent years, has managed to sell some 300 tonnes of nutmegs to the Soviet Union according to Robin Renwick, general manager of the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA). Mr Renwick told reporters here that the nutmegs valued at EC\$1.5 million were sold after intensive negotiations which started in 1980 between Grenada Government officials and Soviet traders. He stated that within recent years the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) had been holding discussions with governments in Eastern Europe with a view towards establishing direct trading links with them. The nutmegs were sold under such a contract, he said. Mr Renwick said the sales to the Soviets were made at slightly above the present market price and such would have a tremendous impact on the declining revenue of the association. He said, however, that the contract between the two countries was not on-going but "we certainly hope they would be following it up later with subsequent contracts." Before the sale, Grenadian nutmegs bought by the Soviet Union had dropped from approximately 500 tonnes in 1979 to 260 tonnes in 1981. The GCNA general manager said although the sale of the nutmegs was significant and would mean a good price realised for farmers here, there was need to sell much more nutmegs to take the industry out of its present precarious situation. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE English 23 May 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/311

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON NEW COUNCIL OF STATE

PA091905 Guatemala City Trecevision in Spanish 0130 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] One of the characteristics which best outline Gen Efraim Rios Montt's thoughts concerning those who see politics as their way of life is his constant remark to the effect that they are chslers living at the expense of public funds, along with other statements of the same kind--of which the people at large are well aware, because the president of the military junta makes his statements freely whenever interviewed or in the course of his Sunday messages to the nation.

In keeping with this attitude and from his very first minute as head of state, Gen Efraim Rios Montt has been saying that the members of the triumvirate and their military advisers do not want to have anything at all to do with the politicians, whom he blames for the chaotic situation of the nation.

Last Friday, Rios Montt reiterated a number of charges and criticisms against the politicians, while on Sunday he announced the impending establishment of a council of state, whose duties will be--among others--to advise and legislate for the greater benefit of the people.

In sum, this council would be the first step toward the democratic, and especially institutional, path and according to General Rios Montt this body would represent most of the citizenry. The political parties would not be excluded, nor would they be in sole control.

Undoubtedly this formula will be advantageous for the country, because one of the most persistent criticisms concerning the now-disbanded national congress had been that it was not sufficiently heterogeneous. That is to say, an overwhelming majority of government representatives had turned congress into a servile tool and not an instrument for the control and supervision of state and the executive branch as it was supposed to be.

However, it seems that politicians will end up with the reins of the state in their hands after all because, according to Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad, member of the triumvirate and interior minister, the council of state will be assembled by the politicians.

[Begin recording] I think that it is very good. First of all the junta is seeking to assemble a fully representative body of the Guatemalan people. Thus, the government junta is telling the people that its intentions are very good. The advise of these politicians is necessary, first of all so that they can realize that they are being taken into account, which in itself is a good sign.

[Question] General, who will be in the council of state in addition to the politicians?

[Answer] The politicians will be the representatives of the political parties, those who are appointed by the political parties. Everything will be done freely. There will be an election.

[Question] General, will the parties that did not join the [words indistinct] front, that is those who supported the candidacy of (Candido Bartos), be able to participate?

[Answer] That is something to be decided at a meeting of political parties.

The establishment of a council of state was also discussed by journalist Rafael Escobar Arguello, under secretary of public relations of the junta.

[Begin recording] I believe that the aim of the new body is to provide advisorship in many fields, that means that this council of state would not be made up of politicians alone, as has been the case in the past. It will have experts in many fields so that the problems that the government is currently facing can be studied from every viewpoint--that is, from the legal, medical, social and [words indistinct].

This means that every problem would be studied from every possible viewpoint and that there will be people capable of coming up with good ideas.
[End recording]

Rafael Escobar Aguello was questioned about the charges which had been hurled at the prior council of state, to the effect that it had been inoperative and that another of the same kind was now being created. He was also asked whether the current project would have positive results. Escobar Arguello answered that the junta needs advisers.

[Begin recording] The prior administration had the vice president, the Council of State and the Congress. The people used to say that the vice president's post was inoperative, but it was a position established by the national constitution and thus there had to be one. Moreover, on many occasions the members of the Council of State provided good advise, which was [words indistinct], as the last president of that council recently said.

Currently I look at this from a different point of view. For example, General Rios Montt is knowledgeable in many fields and he has considerable experience, but there are things in these fields about which he has no in-depth knowledge so for these cases he needs an adviser. The same applies to the other members of the junta. [End recording]

BRIEFS

ALTERNATE JUNTA MEMBERS RESIGNED--After assuming the presidency of the republic, General Rios Montt said that he considered this a shining moment in the history of Guatemala because, he said, the unity of command and the responsibility of leading the country to its destiny have been placed on the shoulders of one person. He thanked God for giving him this opportunity to serve the fatherland. As a result of the existing harmony, General Maldonado Schaad said that under the country's present circumstances it is difficult for three persons to share command, which is why the two alternate members of the government junta decided that it was in the fatherland's interests to submit their resignations and to unify the nation's command. He added that there was always complete harmony in the junta, and precisely as a result of that harmony the decision was made to submit their respective resignations. Colonel Gordillo Martinez said that he wanted to tell his comrades in arms and the Guatemalan people that out of loyalty for the principle of unity of command and for the country's general welfare, it was decided that the two junta members should resign. Both former junta members stated that General Rios Montt has the capability, character and the attributions of dignity, honesty, trustworthiness and loyalty required to rule the country. Both former junta members wished the new president of the republic complete success. Guatemala, 9 June 1982. [Text] [PA100209 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Jun 82]

FORMER JUNTA MEMBERS COMMENT ON CHANGE--In a brief speech delivered today, Col Francisco Gordillo called General Rios Montt the constitutional president, but later on he referred to disagreement of views of the military junta. He said that due to different views, it was difficult to maintain a single viewpoint in the decisions that were adopted. Unity of command was difficult, he said, which was why it was decided to unify command in the person of Gen Efraim Rios Montt as president of the republic. Gen Maldonado Schaad said that at no time was there disagreement within the military government junta and that the decision to appoint Rios Montt as president was adopted to unify the command of the republic and the armed institution. Gen Horacio Maldonado expressed thanks to all the ministers for the cooperation they gave to the military junta. He also extended his thanks to newsmen. Foreign Minister Castillo Arriola today said that the change of government will be immediately made known to all friendly countries. He said that no recognition is expected, since Guatemala has

acted in full exercise of its sovereignty. This will also be made known to all the international organizations, including the United Nations and the OAS. [Text] [PA091910 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1849 GMT 9 Jun 82]

RIOS MONTT DUTIES--It was officially announced today that the army proclaimed Gen Efraim Rios Montt president of Guatemala and dissolved the government junta that seized power on 23 March after a coup d'etat. It was reported in a news conference that the other junta members, Gen Horacio Maldonado and Col Francisco Gordillo resigned at the request of the army high command, which considered that they had to "unify power." Rios Montt, who also headed the junta formed after the coup d'etat that ousted Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, will also become commander of the army and will assume legislative functions. [Text] [PA091820 Paris AFP in Spanish 1808 GMT 9 Jun 82]

JUNTA WILL CREATE STATE COUNCIL--Guatemala City, 7 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Today, Manuel de Jesus Giron Sanchez, secretary of the Guatemalan junta, said that the Guatemalan military junta will create a state council that will be made up of representatives of the most important socio-economic organizations in the country. Giron Sanchez added that the state council will advise the junta and will draft laws that will be of national interest. Each socio-economic organization will submit three candidates for the council, and the military junta will choose one representative from each organization. The junta will also have its own representatives. Giron Sanchez said there is no specific date for the formation of the council, but he believes that it may be formed in approximately 1 month. [Text] [PA080432 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2218 GMT 7 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1691

FOOD, LIVESTOCK FEED SHORTAGES REACH CRITICAL STAGE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 16 May 82 p 4

[Text] The food situation in Guyana is moving to a critical point with all indicators showing a serious crisis facing livestock farmers where suppliers of stockfeed are concerned. It is understood that poultry farmers are in grief over their inability to obtain feeds, medicines and essential inputs. Chicks and meat birds are dying out causing heavy losses. In other cases the meat birds are small in size because of undernourishment and therefore fetch low prices on the market.

As a result of this crisis many poultry farmers are selling out their birds in order to stave off losses which loom ahead because of the ongoing stock-feed shortage. It is further understood that foreign exchange constraints are militating against optimum production at the state-owned Guyana Stock-feeds Ltd. There is on the other hand a heavy and growing demand for stock-feeds of all types produced by the firm.

A big poultry producer with headquarters in the City is selling off birds cheap at the moment. Live ones are going at \$2.20 per lb while plucked birds are going at \$3.40 per lb. Elsewhere the prices are much higher reaching \$4.50 per lb retail for plucked chicken.

In the meantime the continuing acute shortage of flour has caused high prices for ground provisions and a tripled demand for rice by consumers. Provisions levelled at \$1.50 per lb in Georgetown with plantains rising to \$1.75-\$2.00 per lb. It is not known if or when flour is going to be available again or if or when the wheat beat is going to arrive. Management of the National Milling Company told the Mirror that there is no truth in the report that the firm is shifting its operations to Barbados and that dismantling of installations has commenced.

Managing Director Peter Matthews scotched the rumour and said categorically: "We are staying here in this country. We are not going anywhere. We are waiting for a new shipment of wheat. That's all." He intimated that over-haul and maintenance works are going on but that this is routine and should not be construed by observers that the firm is going away.

Sources close to the Trade Ministry also said that a small shipment of cheese is due to arrive in port soon. This cheese was ordered before the ban was imposed. It is not known when the garlic shortage could be eased, as no fresh orders have been placed as yet by the trade authorities. The garlic price overseas has recently almost doubled to some US\$1 per lb..... G\$3 per lb. Because of this the Ministry is trying to decide whether to buy or not at that price.

CSO: 3025/315

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO MONOPOLIZE GOLD TRADE IN NEW LAW

Georgetown MIRROR in English 9 May 82 pp 2-3

[Text] Energy Minister Hubert Jack has issued an order bringing the Guyana Gold Board Act into operation on May 15, 1982. This is an Act designed to give the government power to accumulate gold stocks from various sources.

As stipulated in the Act, government becomes the sole gold buyer and sole gold seller and also the sole gold exporter. Exceptions are made for goldsmiths and other trades-people who use gold in their line of work, but they will have to be licenced.

Tributors who obtain gold will have to sell all to government at a price fixed by government. The Act in fact says:

"Every producer who wins or obtains gold during operations as a producer shall, within 28 days after his winning or obtaining such gold or such longer period as the Board may allow, sell such gold to the Board or to any agent authorised in writing..."

"Every person not being a producer who has gold in his possession shall, within 28 days after the coming into operation of this Act, sell such gold to the Board or to any agent authorised in writing by the Board." This section excludes goldsmiths, dentists, and intransit persons with gold not won in Guyana.

Section 8 says: "No person shall sell any gold to, or purchase any gold from any person other than the Board or export any gold." Exceptions are made for authorised persons and for the tradition in the hinterland of tributors paying their debts to shopkeepers with part of the gold they obtain.

Penalties for infringements are: A fine of \$2,500 for the first conviction; a fine of \$2,500 "and imprisonment for 24 months on the second or any subsequent conviction" plus the forfeiture of the gold in respect of which the offence was committed.

Government through this Act is seeking to boost its revenues by establishing a monopoly on gold trading. There are fears however, that the Act may turn out to be counter-productive if government's gold price is unrealistic. Already in Guyana the price at which government buys producer items is generally poor. This has led to plunging production in many areas.

CSO: 3025/315

FOUR UNIONS BOYCOTT MAY DAY ACTIVITIES, ASSAIL PNC

Georgetown MIRROR in English 2 May 82 p 4

[Text] The marching tramping which was passed off by the TUC-PNC-GDF axis as a May Day rally in Georgetown did not get the support of the country's most influential and militant unions--GAWU, NAACIE, CCWU and UGSA, representing sugar, garment, clerical, commercial and university workers.

The four unions would have nothing to do with the Georgetown event described at a pre-Labour Day mass meeting at the Bourda Mall by CCWU President Gordon Todd as a "farce" and by GAWU General Secretary Ram Karran as a "reptilian circus."

The First of May has been observed in Guyana in a backdrop of a bizarre climate of sufferings and despair of the working people who, as never before in the country's history, are faced with the grim prospects of starvation, mass dismissals, wage freeze and escalating living costs.

May Day was also dampened by the gloom of Guyana's financial bankruptcy under the Burnham administration, a production collapse near war hysteria over the Guyana-Venezuela border row, an unofficial and undeclared curfew, dusk to dawn in some places, caused by the grisly state of the electricity services and the general malaise which goes with the 17-year-old PNC misrule.

These were the issues which were discussed when the four unions met at the Bourda Mall on Thursday evening last. The trade unionists N.K. Gopaul, Gordon Todd, Ram Karran and Clive Thomas were all agreed that before the PNC took power Guyana boasted the highest standard of living and highest income per capita in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Mr Todd accused the government with being a "bad employer" and the TUC with "selling out." He said that the government has squandered the country's limited financial resources and was running the country on a "hand-to-mouth" basis.

He stressed that the lack of democracy is at the roots of the crisis, mentioning that the last elections were massively rigged and called on the government to go to the people for a fresh mandate. This position was later supported by Clive Thomas who emphasised that the impediment to progress in Guyana stems from the political crisis caused by elections riggings and minority government.

Mr Ram Karran, the veteran trade unionist who is also an Opposition Parliamentarian and Deputy Speaker, traced the crisis to deeper roots which manifested themselves in the rigging of union elections, the breakdown in collective bargaining and the alienation of the people.

He rejected government's contentions that the crisis has been caused by world recession, pointing out that external crisis was not responsible for the shortfall in local production. "This is the result of PNC mismanagement."

The GAWU President called for working people's unity and a resolve to push the PNC out of government.

CSO: 3025/315

POLICE USE VIOLENCE TO DISBAND CORENTYNE STUDENT RALLY

Georgetown MIRROR in English 2 May 82 p 4

[Text] A massive students' demonstration in protest against the dismissal of teachers was on Wednesday last violently smashed by the police in the Upper Corentyne area.

The students took to the streets with anti-government placards following the sacking last week of three teachers. The demonstrations started on Monday, continued on Tuesday and on Wednesday involving some 1,600 students from the Line Path Secondary and Lutheran High School.

However, on Wednesday while the marchers were in the vicinity of the Maya Cinema, a large contingent of police confronted them and ordered them to disperse. As the students debated among themselves whether or not to comply with the order, a police officer armed with a whip began beating them.

As the whipping was in progress, other policemen pounced on the leaders and arrested 14 of them, carting them away to the Springlands police station. They were detained in the station for 2 hours then released without charge.

One of the government departments to feel the brunt of the dismissal drive launched by the PNC is the Ministry of Education. Contrary to assurances given in Parliament by Minister Thomas, a large number of graduate and trained teachers has been dismissed. Initially over 600 teachers will be sacked but taking vacancies which will not be filled and jobs which have been eliminated, the final number of teachers and other personnel to get the boot in 1982 is expected to be in the vicinity of 2,000.

In the meantime, the PPP has been making representations for the reinstatement of several teachers who have so far been sacked, indications are that many of the sacked teachers are suspected of association with opposition parties, in which case the dismissals smack of political discrimination and witch-hunting.

CSO: 3025/315

FRAUD ALLEGED IN GUYNEC; POLICE REPORTEDLY INVESTIGATING

Georgetown MIRROR in English 9 May 82 p 5

[Text] Informed sources close to Eve Leary (Police Headquarters) told the Mirror that a big fraud has been uncovered at the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (Guynec) and that an important official is helping the police in their enquiries. Two steel pontoons have been seized by the police while the investigations are proceeding. It is understood that the alleged fraud is in the vicinity of \$1 million.

Mirror has also been told by informed sources that another big million dollar fraud has been unearthed in yet another state corporation and that a top man is under scrutiny. In the case of the Guynec suspect, his passport has been seized. He is understood to have tried to leave Guyana.

The PPP has repeatedly made the point in and out of Parliament that large-scale embezzlement is taking place in many government entities, resulting in multi-millions being lost to the Treasury. It was also shown where instances of arson followed fraud probes in some cases, including the Guyana Rice Board.

There were two investigative reports on the last fire at Enmore Estate, one of which was never published by the authorities. Instead arbitrary arrests were made of innocent PPP supporters who were tortured to "confess" so as to make the arson look like "politics." This plot failed. No one confessed to the false charges.

Some weeks ago the President's Secretariat announced the setting up of an "Accountability Committee" to spearhead a drive against corruption in the state sector. It is not known if this Committee has done any work as yet. Opposition circles are demanding an All-Party Anti-Corruption Committee and Integrity Legislation and have expressed no confidence in the narrow "Accountability Committee" set up so far.

CSO: 3025/315

BRIEFS

FAILURE OF REGIONAL SYSTEM--The regional system whose birth is linked to the new constitution and the fraudulent 1980 elections though still in its infancy, is showing signs of terminal disease and vital limbs are falling off. Not yet a year and a half old, the system has lost by resignation one of the ten Regional Chairmen, Maurice Haniff, who quit as a result of frustration caused by certain undemocratic practices in the selection of personnel. Another Chairman, Fazeel Rayman, the husband of a PNC parliamentarian has gone on leave with indications that he might not return to his post. Haniff and Rayman were heads of the Corentyne and West Demerara regions respectively. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 9 May 82 p 4]

SPECIAL CRIME SQUAD--Georgetown, Wed., (Cana)--Guyana's Police Commissioner, Lloyd Barker, has set up a special anti-crime squad of uniformed and plain clothes policemen following an increase in reports of citizens and foreigners being attacked and robbed on the streets of Georgetown. [Text] [Georgetown TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/315

VISITING SALVADORAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES POLICY

PA091410 San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Jun 82 p 3

[Text] "The United States has made a historic mistake by supporting England in its dispute with Argentina over the Malvinas," Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Alejandro Gomez Vides said yesterday. "We agree that the United States should support England diplomatically but not materially," he added.

The position of El Salvador, Gomez Vides noted, is to support Argentina, since the British, in a neocolonialist attitude, claim sovereignty over a territory which to us belongs without doubt to the Latin American sister nation.

"We are also surprised," he pointed out, "at the application of economic sanctions by the European countries as well as by the United States." This attitude, he said, should open the eyes of the small countries to the fact that economic aggression could be used against any of us, and that is very dangerous.

Asked about the creation of an inter-American organization excluding the United States, Gomez Vides replied that he could not give an official opinion, but personally he felt an organization of this type with the absence of the colossus of the north would have little force and effect. "This does not mean that in the future the Latin American nations should not take more drastic measures than those adopted up to now. I consider that any future decision would hinge on the developments of the Malvinas conflict," he said.

He noted, for instance, that if the British should bomb Comodoro Rivadavia or land on the continent, this could provoke a much stronger reaction in Latin America.

Internationalization of Peace

Although we were not consulted by the Honduran Government when the initiative was launched, we certainly favor such a proposal. This peace offensive, Gomez Vides said, conforms to the traditional peaceful attitude of Honduras.

Announces Arrival of Salvadoran President

He announced that Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana is scheduled to arrive in Honduras within the next few days as part of a tour he will make of the nations of the area.

"The first country he will visit will be Honduras, proof of the importance this country has for us," he concluded.

CSO: 3010/1692

COUNTRY SECTION

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER--President Roberto Suazo Cordova has appointed Mr Dante Ramirez as one of his main presidential advisers. Ramirez, an economist, is a man with international prestige. [PA052200 San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jun 82 p 3]

CSO: 3010/1692

POLITICAL LEADERS MAKE STATEMENTS MARKING LABOR DAY

Manley Release

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 82 p 11

[Text]

The following statement for Labour Day was issued by The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley:

"Labour Day 1982 will evoke two moods and witness a third on the part of the workers of Jamaica.

The first mood will be traditional and celebratory. We can look back at 44 years of solid achievement since the convulsions of 1938. The Trade Union Movement has grown in stature until it stands in the Jamaica of today as a major pillar of our society and the major instrument in the defence of the nation's workers.

We look back with pride at the gains made in wages and fringe benefits and the increasing sophistication of modern union contracts. At the same time, there have been major advances in the field of legislation particu-

larly in the decade of the 1970s.

The second mood will be one of anxiety. During the last year there have been disturbing signs of a mounting assault against the Trade Union Movement and the workers as a whole. There have been actions by employers which indicate a reduction in respect for workers' rights and the traditions which have been built up with such effort over the years.

Recent Court decisions have cast doubt upon some of the foundations on which our system of industrial relations have been built. At the very least there is a clear need for the careful review of existing legislation to ensure that the purposes for which it was intended are being achieved in fact.

'MILITANCY'

The mood which Labour Day will witness is one of increasing militancy.

There is a distinct feeling that the gains of the past are threatened if not actually under assault. Neither the workers nor the unions are going to sit by idly while the progress of the past is dismantled. We call upon all workers to be vigilant and disciplined and to be ready to defend what has been won even as we prepare to add new dimensions to progress in the future.

At the same time, we call upon certain elements in the society to stop and ask themselves the question: What will Jamaica gain in the future if they force the working class movement to fight in self-defence? They might even ask themselves what they think they will gain. "This is a time for co-operation, not confrontation; for steady progress through sensible dialogue, not for willful attempts to turn the clock back."

Seaga Speech

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 82 pp 1, 16

[Text] Two studies to examine work attitudes are to be undertaken by the Government this year, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, said yesterday.

Mr Seaga was speaking at a ceremony at National Heroes Park in Kingston. The ceremony was in memory of the detention of National Hero and founder of the Jamaica Labour Party and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante. He was put in detention at the Sutton Street jail in Kingston on May 24, 44 years ago.

Wreaths were laid at the shrine by Mr Seaga, Lady Bustamante, widow of Sir Alexander; Mr Lascelles Beckford, BITU vice-president, on behalf of BITU president, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, who is abroad; the Hon. Bruce Golding, General Secretary, on behalf of the Jamaica Labour Party; Miss Edith Nelson, General Secretary, on behalf of the B.I.T.U. and by Dr Mavis Gilmour, Minister of Education.

In his address at the ceremony, Mr Seaga announced that this year the Government would be setting up a task force of members of the trade unions, the employers' organizations, socialologists and representatives of other areas of the community to examine work attitudes and motivation.

In addition, the Government would commission a scientific study on work attitudes to determine the principles which would guide the nation to achieving qualities of excellence.

The Prime Minister said:

"I like to think of this occasion as one in which we can reflect upon the role of work. The role of labour in the values of our society.

"We need to do this especially at this time because we are in the course of rebuilding our society and our nation. And as I have had occasion to say before, since we are in the course of rebuilding a structure, then let us do it the right way rather than simply replace what was there. In doing it the right way, let us reflect upon the value of work in our society.

"Work, of course, is both a programme of action that is necessary for the economy as it is for the social well-being of the nation. Work is something that gives individuals satisfaction or fails to give them internal satisfaction as well as giving them a productive role by which they earn an income.

"If we ask ourselves this morning the question as to our attitudes towards work, we begin to realize that there are a multitude of differing attitudes which need to be sorted out. For some people work is a pay packet. For others it is a programme of activity that runs from nine to five and for those who don't watch the clock, it is almost an interruption of the comfort and rest of the week-end.

"But there are others to whom work is a very satisfying thing. There others who see work as something by means of which they can achieve and they can put their own abilities into operation to achieve a degree of excellence.

"This country is accustomed to performance at levels of excellence. This country produces some of the world's most excellent products. Several of our agricultural products stand No. 1 in the world; our coffee, our cocoa, our pimento and I am quite sure many of you will agree, our rum.

"But there are other ways in which Jamaican workers have been able to establish that they can excel. The very same Jamaican cane-cutter who often here is considered to be a performer below standard level as a farm worker in the United States is considered to be one of the top achievers.

"Some of our industrial workers have also achieved those standards of excellence when performing in certain conditions. And so we must ask ourselves what are the conditions in which workers perform to levels of excellence, showing their outstanding ability and what are the conditions under which workers do not perform, to such levels.

"I will not pretend to begin to even answer this. I am quite sure that off the top our heads many of us can give some reasons which may be true or not true. What I will say is that we as a people need to understand these things. We as a nation must come to find out what motivates us as a people to work.

"What motivates us will in fact lead us to a determination of what will enable the country to prosper at levels which are important to the recovery programme and to help the society to be stable because there is a greater feeling of satisfaction among our people. It is therefore essential that we come to terms to understand our attitudes to work.

"As we approach our 21st anniversary as a nation, I want us to examine our attitudes to work. Knowing full well what this means in terms of stabilizing our society and giving ourselves greater inner satisfaction and being a greater productive force.

"I propose therefore this year to establish a task force to whom I will entrust this responsibility. A task force that will examine our attitudes to work and I propose to invite the union movement, representatives of the business community, sociologists and others from a broad-based spectrum, to give consideration this year to the nation's attitude to work so that we can truly understand what makes us tick as a people.

"I propose also that in line with the study of this task force, to commission a scientific study on attitudes to work. A scientific study that will determine what are those principles that will help us to achieve the quality of excellence to which we must aim and what are the principles that turn us from excellence to mediocre and develop root causes of instability by not generating that great feeling of satisfaction that comes with a job well done.

Mr Seaga said this year was a year of introspection in which the country must think deeply and find answers.

"The answers are not alone in money," he said. "The answers are not alone in reviving the economy. If that was so we would be rebuilding the same house. We must now structure it differently. The answer must now be in terms of a more satisfied people."

The Prime Minister said the J.L.P. Government recognized the need for the partnership between the market place and the work place.

This inter-relationship was deeply understood by Sir Alexander and the J.L.P. intended to be guided by that principle operating from the base he gave: to fill out his philosophy and his principles which could be easily summarized in the phrase: "There can be no prosperity in the market place without harmony at the work place."

Chairman of the function was the Hon. Errol Anderson, Minister of Youth and Community Development. The prayers were said by Canon R.O.C. King and the Rev. Dr Horace Russell.

CSO: 3025/316

CARL STONE AT ODDS WITH UNIONS, QUILTS AS 'ENQUIRER'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Text]

DR. CARL STONE, sole enquirer into the dispute between the St. Thomas Parish Council and the BITU and JALGO, has resigned, accusing the unions of withdrawing from the proceedings, and of "a deliberate act of insult designed to show insult to the enquirer".

The unions on the other hand say they withdrew because of Dr. Stone's "anti-union and anti-worker stance" taken in an article in the Gleaner. IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, copies of which were sent to the press, Dr. Stone said hearing of most of the evidence in the enquiry had been completed with only a day's sitting left to com-

plete the enquiry.

Last Friday, however, both unions failed to turn up without giving any notice of having timetable prob-

lems. When attempts were made to contact the parties "they were mysteriously not available,"

Dr. Stone said.

Since then, the Ministry had been unable to get the unions to confirm any dates for completion of the hearings.

"As far as I am concerned, the trade unions have aborted the proceedings by withdrawing from the enquiry. Further, their failure to communicate with the enquirer amounts to a studied and

deliberate act of insult designed to show hostility to the enquirer," Dr. Stone said.

He reminded the Permanent Secretary that he had accepted the appoint-

ment "quite reluctantly and only agreed to proceed because my involvement was specially requested by the trade unions."

BUT THE BITU AND JALGO in a joint statement said the Ministry of Labour was informed on Friday, before the time arranged for the sitting of Dr. Stone's enquiry, that they would not be appearing as a result of an article he had written in the Gleaner about the dispute at the Water Commission. "Dr. Stone should be fully aware of the anti-union and anti-workers stance taken by him in the article under reference, bearing in mind the issues he was called to arbitrate upon in the St. Thomas Parish Council affair," the unions' statement said.

NEGATIVE RESULTS END PEDRO BANKS OFFSHORE OIL SEARCH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Text]

THE FIRST PHASE of off-shore oil exploration on the Pedro Banks has been abandoned in the face of negative results.

A source close to the exploration disclosed yesterday that the Union Texas Petroleum Corporation, of the U.S.A. and AGIP of Italy had already closed down operations at the Arawak No. 1 well off the Pedro Banks.

The initial target depth of 11,600 feet had been reached but, because of the formation encountered decision was taken to continue to a depth of more than 15,000 feet. The jack up oil rig J. Storm IV, was removed on April 24.

Inland drilling is continuing at the Windsor site in St. Ann. The early stage of this exploration had encountered both gas and oil shows which have ceased, it was reported. The Windsor well is now at a depth of 10,400 feet.

The source said preparation of the Retrieve site in Hanover has been completed. Drilling will begin at this site as soon as the exploration at Windsor is completed.

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY in the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Mr. O. St. Clair Riden has emphasised the need for energy conservation. This

he said, had become even more important because there was no news of any dramatic results from the oil explorations.

Mr. Riden was speaking at the opening of a one-week seminar on energy audit for practising private and public engineers at the New Kingston Hotel on Monday.

Speaking on the same seminar, Mr. Douglas Fletcher, Chairman of the National Advisory Council on Energy Conservation, said Jamaica's survival depended on the implementation of meaningful energy conservation measures.

While there were efforts to identify alternate sources of energy, it was important to use available supplies intelligently since Jamaica depended largely on imported oil.

Conservation, he said, had to be approached scientifically and the problem had to be tackled by both private and public sectors. Government could provide incentives for efficient energy utilisation by the manufacturing sector, he added.

Of alternate energy sources, Mr. Fletcher said that while solar heating projects were on stream plans for "gasohol" projects were abandoned because it had proved unsuitable for Jamaica.

BRIEFS

ILLEGAL AIRSTRIP LEGISLATION--Legislation is being drafted to deal effectively with the problem of illegal airstrips in Jamaica, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, Minister of National Security, said on Tuesday. Guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the directors of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce in Kingston, he was asked what was being done to check the upsurge of airstrips inlandwide. He said in reply that this was a subject of controversy for several years. Mr Spaulding said there was no adequate legislation in place to deal with the problem. Under the present laws the Security Forces could not enter private property and destroy what might be illegal strips as the owners could claim that these were surfaced roadways or driveways. However, legislation in respect of this problem was now being drafted and would deal effectively with the situation. He said the airstrips were functioning like airports while not abiding by air traffic control regulations. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/316

EDUCATION MINISTER LACAYO ON U.S.-PASTORA TIES, FLOODS

FL291310 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 82

[Text] Mexico City, 28 May (NOTIMEX)--Nicaraguan Deputy Education Minister Francisco Lacayo said here today that there is evidence that Eden Pastora, known as Commander Cero, is receiving aid from the U.S. State Department for his counterrevolutionary acts. He also said that the possibility cannot be dismissed that forces hostile to Nicaragua will take advantage of the difficulties it is experiencing because of the torrential rains that have fallen in the past week, to try to destabilize the Sandinista regime.

The Nicaraguan official, who arrived in Mexico to meet with officials of the Secretariat of Public Education concerning cooperation programs between the two countries, estimated that material losses caused by the rains amount to more than \$150 million. Francisco Lacayo said that according to the latest reports available to him, 50 people have died, the number of victims exceeds 35,000 and 60 percent of the corn, cotton, coffee and banana crops has been lost.

The visitor described the situation as "the worst disaster in its history." He said that the cities of Leon and Chinatenango are practically destroyed and 35 provincial bridges were swept away by the water. He added that Nicaragua has received help from the United Nations, Mexico, the Socialist International, the Arab countries and the International Red Cross.

He reiterated that groups of mercenaries in southern Honduras are preparing to invade Nicaragua with U.S. support. But, he pointed out, the Nicaraguans are united and ready to fight if necessary.

CSO: 3010/1690

BRIEFS

ORTEGA MESSAGE TO ARAFAT--On behalf of the FSLN National Directorate, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the people of Nicaragua, we hereby express our deep indignation over and categorical condemnation of the latest criminal aggression by the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon. We feel that the Zionist invasion must immediately cease and that the Zionist forces must unconditionally withdraw from southern Lebanon. We remain in constant contact with your ambassador to Managua, Marwan Tahbub, in order to keep abreast of the developments in your struggle in both the military and political-diplomatic areas, and to be able to express our active solidarity with you, in keeping with our high regard for you and your worthy people. (Signed) Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. [Text] [Message from Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committee--relayed by reporter from government house; no date given] [PA082310 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Jun 82]

CUBANS TO HELP WITH CONSTRUCTION--Cuban solidarity with the people of Nicaragua is limitless. Today in Havana, it was announced that 2,000 voluntary workers will soon be arriving in Managua. They will be assisting in our construction work. The group of Cuban internationalists will be working in our country for 2 years. There are already other Cuban internationalists in the country and they are working in the areas of education and road and housing construction. [Text] [PA092257 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1690

AP NATIONAL CONGRESS TO FILL 75 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN JUNE

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 May 82 p A-4

[Text] The National Election Congress of Popular Action will be held between 16 and 18 June to fill the 75 positions on the national plenum of that party, as President Fernando Belaunde Terry announced yesterday to the policy committee of the populist party.

The chief executive and head of the ruling party issued the directive during a luncheon which he had with the delegation of the party in power in the senate at Government Palace, an AP [Popular Action] source revealed last night.

During the meeting, Belaunde emphasized the idea of running the election through the electoral college system so that ministers, members of parliament, mayors, and departmental general secretaries could participate in the voting.

On another matter, the chief of state also urged the senators to speed up the debate on the industries law so that it may be passed during the legislative session which will end this month.

According to the source, there was also talk at the meeting on the renewal of leadership posts in the legislative chambers for the next legislative session.

The name of Representative Sandro Mariategui was mentioned for the position of senate president and a possible reelection of Javier Alva Orlandini was also considered.

Concerning the deputies, the names of Elias Mendoza and Valentin Paniagua were mentioned. The spokesman said that Paniagua does not seem to be very enthusiastic over the idea of running for president of the Junior Chamber.

Secretary General

Prior to Belaunde's luncheon with the senators, Secretary General Javier Arias Stella announced, concerning the populist congress, that the initial resolution of the policy committee was to renew the leadership between 18 and 20 June.

The regulations for the internal elections will be made known within a week. Unofficially, he mentioned Javier Alva Orlandini and Fernando Calmell del Solar as heading the two slates for the position of secretary general.

He indicated that, during last Monday's meeting between the policy committee and the party head, Fernando Belaunde Terry, it was agreed that departmental representation would not become involved in the election convention since there are doubts about or problems with those representations because of the way they were appointed or because they are poorly organized.

According to Arias Stella, the policy committee resolutions will be submitted next Monday to the full national meeting of the AP for official approval.

He also said that President Belaunde Terry will be involved in the national congress as voter since he is the head of the party and of the policy committee.

The secretary general pointed out that the expelled members or those who had resigned from the party would not be involved in the convention, such as deputies Reynaldo Rivera, Julio Villanueva Gallo, and Alejandro MacLennan.

In this way, AP will renew its national-level leadership cadres for the first time under the administration which it runs since its last internal elections were held in 1979. The changeover in positions should have taken place last year but it was postponed on the suggestion of the chief of state.

During the first days of the national congress, the outgoing secretary general Javier Arias Stella will present a report on the party's situation in view of the country's political condition.

This populist gathering was supposed to have been held last month but the chief and founder recommended that this be done during the next parliamentary process so as not to interfere in the legislative action of the chambers.

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CSO: 3010/1604

ALVA ORLANDINI DISCUSSES INFLATION, CONGRESSMEN RESIGNATION

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 May 82 p A-4

[Text] The goals planned for the rate of inflation will perhaps not be attained for many reasons, including external factors which work against the country's economy. But if there is anything that can be criticized in Minister of Economy, Finances, and Commerce Manuel Ulloa, it is his excessive optimism, Senate President Javier Alva Orlandini said yesterday. He recalled that Ulloa at the beginning of the year calculated that the rate of inflation would be 45 percent but that, in his judgment, the indicators to date enable us to estimate that the inflation rate will come to 60 percent and "perhaps even more."

Alva thought that the minister of economy would probably have to continue to make corrections because that is natural in politics. "Above all, in the matter of economics, where the factors involved are always varied and circumstantial," he explained.

Alva Orlandini, who made his statements on leaving Government Palace after a conference with President Belaunde, noted that one would have to wait until the end of the year to be able to come up with a real evaluation of the economic policy pursued by Ulloa.

Bicameral Commission

Talking about the way a weekly publication had criticized the Bicameral Budget Commission, he said that this is unjustified because, according to the budget law, the Bicameral Commission must 3 months evaluate the progress and execution of the budget "and this is what it is doing right now."

He stated that the Bicameral Commission "which is a multiparty body," several days ago invited Economy, Finance, and Commerce Minister Manuel Ulloa so that he would report to it on the progress of this year's budget.

"Thus, the story which comes from that magazine does not jibe with reality since the Bicameral Commission is made up of senators and deputies from various parties who have a special knowledge on matters of economics and finance," he reported.

Resignations

Concerning the resignations of deputies Julio Villanueva Gallo (La Libertad) and Alejandro Mac Lennan Rojas (Pasco) from Popular Action, he thought that these are natural events in political parties.

He said that although these are lamentable losses, both resignations do not at any moment undermine party unity "nor the popular support which Popular Action has."

He ruled out the idea that the resignations of the two deputies were caused by Ulloa's economic policy. "They have never suggested anything like this, nor did the opposition signal any changes in direction and any alternatives," he maintained.

He then agreed that there are conversations going on between him and his colleague Fernando Calmell del Solar with a view to drawing up a single slate for the next elections to the post of AP secretary general.

"However I think that the support which I have on the national level is not only sufficient but overwhelming to win any election," he said.

Regarding possible military aid by Peru to Argentina, he said that this determination is to be made only by President Belaunde in accordance with the constitution in his capacity as supreme commander of the armed forces.

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BELAUNDE DISCUSSES ECONOMY, OPPOSITION, OTHER ISSUES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 May 82 p A-4

[Text] A thousand projects of "great importance" will begin to be launched on the national level starting tomorrow, 18 May, on the occasion of the commemoration of the second anniversary of the Popular Action victory in the election, President Fernando Belaunde Terry announced yesterday.

He said that his wife Violeta yesterday began this task by starting up community centers and kindergartens in the new towns of Ventanilla Alta and "14.6 Hectareas" of Callao.

However, he explained, during a one-day trip which he will make to the country's northern part, he will personally tomorrow open the port of Salaverry which "we found all silted up when we took over the administration."

He announced that he would reach that port in the BAP [Peruvian Naval Vessel?] "Independencia" which leaves for Europe and which he will board in Chimbote. "I will sail with it a part of the way because I do not like to spend travel money," he said.

The chief of state noted that, from that moment on, prefects, mayors, officials of organizations, etc., on the national level, will begin to turn a total of 1,000 projects over to the people.

In his usual Sunday press conference, he pointed out that one of them will be the opening of the Cobriza expansion and the concentrating plant at Ica; this will also include the completion of the Puno--Desaguadero highway. "On the national level, we will open 2,500 housing units," he said.

As for the projects which his wife will be opening in Pueblos Jovenes [New Town] until 31 May, he reported that these are simple projects which are the "combined fruit of the philanthropy of the rich and the philanthropy of the poor."

Economy

Concerning the economic situation, Belaunde Terry maintained that, although the "situation is critical," this is not due to the decline in "our main products."

He explained that, with one thesis or another, with one political leader or another, the "situation would be the same. It would be an illusion to think that things are going to change for the people just because there is a change in men," he emphasized.

He called Ulloa a person "who is very versed in the economy." "That recognition he also received abroad when he was unanimously appointed chairman of the World Bank's Development Committee," he said, adding that "it is one thing to recognize his competence in handling the economy but not when it comes to bringing about miracles."

Faith in the Future

After expressing optimism in the nation's future, he asked the people for "patience and faith." "I am not pessimistic," he said, "because I know that there is work to be done. And I do know that during the year now starting, with an adjustment of prices on the international market, Peru will begin to restore its economy and to engage in promotion and development projects."

Opposition

Concerning the opposition to his administration, he noted that there were two kinds: one of them is the honorable opposition and the other one--extremist--"does damage."

He gave examples of this second opposition by saying that there is a political leader in parliament who keeps saying in the United States that "here in Peru human rights are not respected. That is harmful to the country since it is not the truth," he added.

Regional Strikes

In another portion of his statements, Belaunde Terry used the term "foolish" in talking about the regional strikes after announcing that he had talked to the members of the Talara strike committee last week in Government Palace.

He indicated that, in response to this dialogue, these leaders demand that "I betake myself to Talara." "That cannot be. Everybody in his own place," he said and then noted that, on that road, "we are not going to get anywhere."

He announced that the administration last Saturday sent parliament a bill for the General Law of Principles so that this problem may "be resolved equitably."

Vulcano Group

Concerning the Vulcano Group, he termed this matter "unfortunate" after noting that its property will be torn down so that an account may be prepared later on.

"We do not want anybody to go bankrupt. A good administration benefits everybody. This is why what happened is a blow to me. I am really sorry," he said.

Regarding the difficult situation of the daily EL OBSERVADOR, he said that "it is very painful" but he emphatically ruled out the charge that this situation is due to the administration.

"I fervently hope that a solution will be found. This is a newspaper of high quality. And the opposition has to listen to it. Criticism is necessary and indispensable in a democratic system. It does not bother me at all," he emphasized.

After warning that "the administration is not a charitable outfit," he said that it has many responsibilities to take care of, including education, health, and the bankrupt public enterprises. And to that we add the private enterprises which do not run well, one will see that one must not only solve the problem of EL OBSERVADOR but that there is also a long line of those who are about to close their doors.

Defense

Belaunde also defended the efforts being made by Agriculture Minister Nils Ericsson and Fishing Minister Rene Deustua, pointing out that some of the criticisms made against them "in some cases are well founded whereas in other cases they are capricious."

He said that there is not a single case when a former owner got his land back. "The process of the agrarian reform has been carried out. Now we have to perfect it. Where there are shortcomings, they must be corrected."

Concerning the new airline, Eastern Airlines, which will take over the flights suspended by Braniff, he explained that a provisional permit has been granted. "The final contract will be negotiated," he explained.

He thought that Eastern is a solvent line which will be able to bring many tourists to the country. "Peru wants a larger flow of tourists because that activity is an important source of income for the economy," he pointed out.

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SENATE REJECTS OPPOSITION'S REQUEST

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Apr 82 p A-4

[Text] The AP [Popular Action]-PPC [Popular Christian Party] parliamentary majority during last night's full senate session rejected three petitions for an agreement between houses contended to summon Foreign Relations Minister Javier Arias Stella and other ministers to that body.

The presence of the head of Peruvian diplomacy was suggested by Roger Caceres Velasquez (FNTC [Workers and Peasants National Front]) to have him explain the Peruvian government's final position concerning the problem of the Malvinas [Falkland] Islands.

Leftist representative Rolando Brena (UNIR) in turn filed separate petitions for the appearance in the senate of War Minister Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra and Justice Minister Enrique Elias Larosa.

The invitation to Cisneros Vizquerra was intended to have him explain in detail his repeated statements on presumed attempts at a coup d'etat; Elias Laroza [as published] was to present a briefing on prison policy and the problems of his ministry.

In all cases, the AP-PPC majority voted against these petitions, while the leftists, supported by the PAP [Aprista Party of Peru], voted in favor although the initiatives were rejected.

Penalties Increased

As part of its agenda, the senate passed a bill amending Article 239 of the Criminal Code, requiring penitentiary or prison of no less than 4 years for anybody who carries out a robbery or who was caught in the act.

This same sentence will be given to anyone who perpetrates violence against a person or who threatens him with imminent danger to his life or health or who in some other way makes it impossible for him to resist.

The initiative, submitted by the executive branch and adopted by the Justice Committee, chaired by Oriel Boldrini (AP), notes that the sentence will be no

less than 7 years if the criminal inflicted serious injury upon a person or if the robbery was committed by two or more persons, among other cases.

The penalty will be penitentiary of no less than 12 years if the assaulted person dies as a consequence of the attack and if the criminal could have prevented that result.

Air Service

Another bill through which the Ministry of Aeronautics--by means of the air support services available to it--wants to give the department of Cajamarca permanent passenger, freight, and mail transportation support was passed unanimously and was forwarded to the joint committee of both houses.

The initiative submitted by Alberto Negron (AP) points out that the airport in the city of Cajamarca will serve as operations base for the permanent air support service from and to that department.

Court of Pleas

Another bill was passed, ratifying and giving the force of law to Decree-Law 22815 on amnesty and the court of pleas.

The bill, forwarded through the joint committee of both houses and amended by the Human Rights Commission, notes that those persons are excluded from ratification who, at the date of promulgation of DL [Decree-Law] 22815 had either been reported to the police, were being tried, had been charged, or sentenced for the crime of illicit trafficking in narcotics.

The initiative was returned to the joint committee of both houses for its "clearance" and its subsequent promulgation by the executive branch.

Likewise passed was the bill through which the asphaltting of the Huancayo--Huancavelica highway is considered to be of public necessity and utility; the bill was introduced by Rolando Brena (UNIR). It was forwarded to the Chamber of Deputies for its revision or ratification.

The senate also passed the bill submitted by the PPC delegation through which the land passenger, freight, and mail transportation service will be handled exclusively by Peruvian citizens.

The document was quickly processed and forwarded to the joint committee of both houses; it also points out that foreigners with 2 years of activity in this field will continue to work but without being able to transfer their shares abroad.

Information Center

The senate left practically ready for promulgation by the executive branch the bill creating the Information and Documentation Center of the Congress as a technical service intended to support the work of parliament.

The bill had come from the joint committee of both houses and was reviewed by the Education Committee. It states that the above-mentioned center will be under the offices of the presidents of the senate and of the chamber of deputies; the bill consists of six articles.

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CSO: 3010/1604

VARIOUS REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS CRISIS VIEWED

Call for Argentine Withdrawal

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 May 82 p A-2

[Commentary by Patricio Ricketts Rey de Castro]

[Text] More than a month has passed since the surprise and spectacular landing of General Galtieri's troops on the Falkland, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. It is time to balance the books--and to lament the obvious negative balance.

The actions which in April caused some concern in the world are now causing real alarm: the threat to peace, which was obvious from the very beginning and which gave rise to the Security Council's Resolution 502, is now immeasurably greater; the belligerent actions, which at that time appeared a bit illusory, are now demonstrating their tremendous potential. The conflict has been gradually expanding its perimeter and has already spread to the territorial limits of the continent; national blocs have taken energetic and divergent positions; spirits are overflowing their national boundaries with emotional aggressiveness, without reflecting on where these tensions may lead; demagogy has taken off under full sail, with easily-identified letters of marque; political opportunism is mobilizing and world public opinion has passed from astonishment to concern, and from there to growing fear, while friendly gestures are meeting with failure, one after another; the American organization is being split, with the consent of its enemies; the new "Law of the Sea" approved by the Peruvian delegation to the UN has very quickly made manifest the problems inherent in the 12-mile territorial limit; and, most important of all, Resolution 502, which was approved by an overwhelming majority of the Security Council, without opposition from any of the great powers, continues to be just a piece of paper.

Interests and Principles

It is time, then, to put our ideas in order, and to place principles above interests. As long as the latter, however plausible they may seem to us, suppress the globally accepted norms on which international coexistence is based, there will be no ceasefire in the Falklands. Since 1945 the world

has had a legal charter to which all nations are equally and solemnly bound. Two world wars have shown that the application of that charter is the only guarantee of peace the nations have. We are not, then, living in the tormented days of 1833, when anything could happen, nor is this the time to invoke the "uti possidetis" [each retaining what he at present holds] of 1810, or Alexander VI's papal bull.

History Is Only History

The United Nations Charter obliges all nations to keep the peace and to avoid acts of aggression which endanger it, as well as to resolve their differences in accordance with international law; to abstain from the use of force; and to govern their conduct according to juridical norms which are above any interest. Force does not create rights. All it does is activate opposing forces, to the detriment of peace. Legitimate defense is a recognized right. We must not forget that.

However favorable American opinion may be toward Argentina's historical claims to the Falklands, one cannot hide the fact that its act of force in April seriously contravened the principles of international law and the mandates of the Charter and that therefore it must cease, with the withdrawal of Argentina's military forces from the islands, an action which of itself would oblige the United Kingdom to cease simultaneously the use of force and to withdraw its fleet.

Only thus will it be possible to discuss the question in depth: that is to say, the subject of Argentine sovereignty, the principle of decolonization and the even more important principle of the free determination of peoples on which it is based.

Practical Success

General Galtieri has maintained, as a justification for the act of force in April, Britain's age-old refusal to discuss the situation of the islands with Argentina. This obstacle has ceased to exist, and in that sense, one might say that the occupation has already achieved its basic goal.

Moreover, American and world opinion--including that of the United Kingdom--has during this month become so favorable to the eventual "de jure" unification of the Falklands with Argentina that the sovereignty question has begun to merge, in a practical sense, with decolonization and the free determination of the people who live in the islands--a principle which has been recognized for years by the Latin American community.

From this point of view, the thesis of Argentine sovereignty not only will not be diminished, but rather will be strengthened by a military withdrawal from the islands, the concrete expression of the cessation of hostilities.

At this time the dogmatic assertion of sovereignty raised by the Buenos Aires government as an axiom and necessary proviso to any discussion, appears unnecessary, in addition to questionable. Any calm appraisal of the basic

problem would tend to subordinate this theory to the free determination of the peoples, an unarguable principle of law based on man, on his freedom and dignity, as well as on the democratic recognition of the legitimate aspirations to self-government of whole communities. That is sovereignty, on the international and national level.

If the Falklands were capable of forming an independent state, member of the United Nations and of the American brotherhood of nations, there would be no possible controversy with the Argentine thesis of historical sovereignty. The islands would have followed the path of decolonization of former British possessions in the Caribbean.

What has made that solution impossible is not just British obstinacy in hanging on to this desolate possession in southern waters, after having achieved the most successful process of decolonization in human history, but the very unworkability of the situation. It is true that the Republic of Nauru is an island of 21 square kilometers with 8,000 inhabitants; that Tuvalu has barely 7,000 and Belau, 15,000 inhabitants, without the great powers feeling that for this reason they should annex them. But this is not feasible in the Falklands, and consequently their gravitation toward Argentina appears to be the only historic solution, not because of the past, but because of the future.

Argentina has been very aware of this situation, and during the last few years it has attempted, sometimes successfully, to establish with the Falklands ties which the United Kingdom was in no position to develop. Based on current events, the unification should be taken for granted.

The war therefore has no practical meaning, and the negotiated solution being sought by the various friendly interventions would have, in addition, the immense value of returning to the jurisdiction of international law a question which, if it were solved by force, would open a Pandora's box of unspeakable conflicts based on historical territorial claims and not on the principle of the free determination of the peoples.

This point of view would be particularly alarming among the American nations. The prompt and peaceful solution of the Falklands conflict is of lively interest, therefore, not only to the countries involved, but to all the nations of America.

Lessons To Be Learned

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 May 82 p A-2

[Commentary by Eugenio Alarco]

[Text] If such serious events as those taking place because of Argentina's occupation of the Malvinas Islands can teach us anything, it is to take the lessons to be learned therefrom and study their possible future effects. In this case, for example, we have seen the unexpected turns taken by certain nations to the detriment of others; this forces us to reflect deeply and,

looking ahead, to continue preparing ourselves to take adequate measures for the greater safety of our peoples.

The conflict has reached the point of an all-out war, in which it is impossible to predict the future course of events. Nevertheless, many things of the greatest importance have already taken place which can serve us Latin Americans as lessons and counsel.

The British Reaction

As an outstanding note, we have been able to see that, contrary to what appears to be general world opinion, the colonialist spirit is not dead. The fact that after a century and a half of unheeded protests against the illegal foreign occupation of its islands, Argentina should have to recover them by military means has the virtue of having awakened in a violent way the arrogance of the former great British Empire and forced it to display its determination and its great strength by reclaiming by armed force those same islands of which it had once before taken possession, also by armed force.

As far as one can tell from the statements of its leaders and from the first actions, it did not appear to be Great Britain's intention to recapture the islands by force. Doubtless it was believed that a great and noisy display of threatening military strength and the inducement of its allies to join it in a coordinated action of coercion by intimidation would be enough to cause Argentina, confronted with such a huge danger, to feel compelled to restore to England its lost prize. In other words, it continued to express the same ancient conquering will and the same exercise of power.

In effect, Great Britain did obtain the unusual support of its allies in the European Economic Community, who in turn imposed sanctions against Argentina. Finally, the support of its other great ally, the United States of America, was made public. They all appeared to think that confrontation of such an accumulation of risks and power would suffice to make Argentina give in and force it to withdraw and return the islands. Little did they know how much of the Hispanic spirit of honor remains in Latin America.

OAS

In the course of events we have seen the almost unanimous cohesion shown by Latin America in support of Argentina, before, as well as during and after the meetings of the American foreign ministers called by the OAS to invoke the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR).

Still debating, in the midst of their poverty, these nations appear to have understood at last that the only strength the weak nations have is their unity. Apart from the abstention in which the United States, Trinidad and Tobago preferred to take refuge on the agreements expressly recognizing Argentine sovereignty over those islands, only Colombia and Chile refused their support. In the case of the latter, its current, ongoing litigation with Argentina may give it a certain excuse for such abstention. While it is

true that Chilean support for the vote of the majority would have been, in this particular circumstance, a fine example of nobility, we know very well, however, that this is not the style that is expected of the diplomatic behavior of that southern Pacific country, especially toward its neighbors.

What is truly inexplicable is the position chosen by Colombia. Although it may be attributable perhaps to some order of domestic or foreign interests, that brother country has sacrificed to them the total unity which is imperative that the Latin American countries always show, particularly in the face of such serious confrontations as this one.

The achievements of unity among our nations is actually so important that it requires subordination to it of all other individual interests; that the nations do not tend to adopt attitudes which are isolated and even opposed, as in this case, to the stand clearly being maintained by the great majority of the nations of the Latin American family.

U. S. Action

Taking off the mask of neutrality that it had put on at first, evidently for the purpose of exercising, for selfish motives, the office of mediator, the United States, following a criterion of cold pragmatism, did not waste much time before openly taking the British side. It only took the time needed to permit the British squadron to get close to the islands, ready for attack.

From the point of view of the Latin American countries the behavior of the country to the north could not have been more unfortunate. Above all, the very fact of offering to take the role of mediator, while it had already decided to support one of the parties--the more powerful one--constitutes an act that can be described only in very harsh words. It is true that Great Britain is the faithful ally of the United States; but it is also true that in difficult moments for the latter, the Latin American nations have always responded with their support, and not only moral support, but even to becoming its allies, and to defending causes which were totally foreign to them.

It now appears evident that in this case, and only looking after its own interests, what the United States has always wanted and still wants is for the Malvinas Islands, for strategic reasons, to remain in British hands, in order to be able to utilize them militarily and at its discretion should eventual circumstances so warrant. This, no doubt, and the American intention to favor its greatest ally, was behind Secretary of State Haig's insistence on being mediator in a case for which he was morally unfit, given his obvious partiality.

It has become eminently clear that he did not act in good faith, and this is also why Argentina has felt compelled to reject, or to present important conditions to, the various proposals made to it, which tend only to reestablish colonialism in a part of this continent for the benefit of a foreign power.

The Argentine Experience

As if to emphasize such a situation, an advantageous circumstance has now arisen. In the course of a single month, the great country that is Argentina has received at least three noteworthy surprises. First, the unfriendly attitude assumed toward it by the powerful countries of the European Economic Community, with the application of sanctions. It is obvious that they did so only as an expression of their situation as allies of Great Britain. If, as it appears, not all or many of them believed in the political expediency or the moral legitimacy of such measures, they did indeed show a moving example of cohesion, without a single discordant note visible. To Argentina, which has always seen itself through European eyes, this unexpected affront must have been astonishing and disconcerting.

The almost unanimous support and endorsement given it by the Latin American countries must also have been quite a surprise, since it is clear that Argentina has not shown itself to be very enthusiastic about fully identifying with the rest of Latin America. Finally, it received in addition that devastating surprise caused by the ignoble behavior of the United States.

In this case we can also say about all that that if the lessons of history are good for anything, it is up to Argentina, whatever the outcome of the dramatic struggle in which it is engaged, to contribute definitively in the future toward achieving a greater cohesion among the Latin American nations, so that the latter, even amid their relative poverty, may in their totality become a force to be respected, should the situation arise, for its spirit of unity and its renewed strength. The time appears to have come when Latin America must decisively confront the great historic challenge being offered it, now more clearly than ever, by the vision of its own destiny. And it also appears that Argentina could well assume, from now on and with proper credentials, the role of champion of Latin Americanism, in order to achieve complete cohesion among its members.

Essequibo Case

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 May 82 p A-2

[Commentary by Guillermo Martinez Marquez]

[Text] Great Britain's undeclared war against Argentina has had various repercussions in the Americas. On the one hand, it has served to demonstrate the solidarity of the Latin American republics with the River Plate nation, and on the other hand, it has shattered the historic and geographic unity of the so-called New World. It will be many years before we who were born together to the independent life will be able to sit at the table of family celebrations. The repercussions of the tragedy in the south will be even worse. We have in our area two cases similar to that of the Malvinas. It can well be imagined that Great Britain is a protagonist in both cases. It lost Belize over a contract to clear forests, while east of Venezuela a cartographer's whim snatched away from Bolivar's fatherland a broad strip of rich land known as the Essequibo region. And it happens that the 12-year

period agreed upon for solving Caracas's claim peacefully and diplomatically expires next 18 June.

Seven Thousand 'Advisers'

In its Sunday edition of 9 May, THE NEW YORK TIMES reproduced, in a report signed by Barbara Crossette, a denunciation by Guyana's ambassador in Washington in which he expressed his "concern" about the Venezuelan claim. With the opportunism typical of Fidel Castro's followers, the Guyanese diplomat--Cedric Hilborn Grant--claimed to have evidence of Venezuelan military movements along the common border.

"During the past year," the ambassador specified, "the Venezuelans have violated Guyanese air space on 81 occasions."

The fact is, according to cable dispatches published in recent months, that it is the Guyanese Government that has been preparing for war along the border. The socialist government of Forbes Burnham has extended the hand of friendship to his "comrade," Fidel Castro. Havana has sent Guyana more than 7,000 military technicians, calling them "international advisers."

Guyana and Cuba

The cooperation between Georgetown and Havana goes back a long way. Guyana provided Cuban troops sent by Castro to Angola the air base which was imperative for the long journey. The Guyanese official news agency and its counterpart, PRENSA LATINA (of Cuba), signed an agreement at the end of last year for the exchange of information, and at the signing ceremony, Courtney Gibson and Robreno Dolz, directors of the Guyanese press and of PRENSA LATINA, respectively, announced their identification with the "new world order of information" called for by the communists in UNESCO. In Georgetown there is no newspaper other than the government-controlled GUYANA CHRONICLE. "Guyana has nationalized most of its export industry...about 80 percent of national production is in the hands of the government," according to Barbara Crossette's report in the TIMES.

It is curious to observe Cuba's diplomatic duplicity: while in the extreme south it claims to sympathize with the Argentine claim to the Malvinas, in the Caribbean region it definitely supports the excesses of Georgetown. Relations between Havana and Caracas have crumbled recently.

Internationalizing the Conflict

Fidel Castro's customary aggressiveness has obviously reached such an extreme that Washington has deemed it prudent to sell 24 F-16 combat planes to Caracas. President Burnham's intransigence has reached the point of refusing to cooperate with Venezuela in the joint development of the disputed region, not to mention even planning for the Essequibo region. The Guyanese are content to stay in the coastal areas, ignoring the remaining wasteland of their country. (Ninety percent of the 800,000 Guyanese live close to the coast).

"Guyanese authorities are trying to internationalize the conflict," Osvaldo Alvarez Paz, director of the parliamentary group of the Social Christian Party (COPEI), said a short time ago. Castro has already fortified an intermediate support point in Grenada, where some time ago a landing field suitable for big, modern bombers was constructed, and the port is being dredged to convert it into a base for atomic submarines.

Tragedy in Sight

Taking advantage of the natural weakness in Venezuela's republican beginnings in the last century, the British crossed the Essequibo River, which marked the border of Guyana, and occupied the lower coastal areas of the Moruca and the Pomerun. By 1887 they had published a map showing the new border, which included some 178,000 square kilometers more than before. Caracas lost no time in breaking off relations with London. International tribunals and learned arbitrations only succeeded in prolonging and sometimes complicating the problem. After the failure of the Geneva agreement the signatories (Great Britain, Guyana and Venezuela) signed the Port-of-Spain Protocol on 18 June 1970, which was to be in effect for 12 years, that is, until 18 June 1982.

Now the alliance between Guyana and Cuba and the Malvinas crisis are contributing to bring about one of the most dramatic conflicts on our continent. Oddly enough, among the contradictions of our times, Castro seems to have a certain sympathy for Margaret Thatcher, and to some extent Washington is not in agreement with London. A new reason for confusion, among the many we already have. And for the future, the possibility of another tragedy similar to that of the Malvinas--the usurpation of the Essequibo region.

8735

CSO: 3010/1601

BRIEFS

ENERGY LOAN--Castries, Tues., (Cana)--Saint Lucia is to receive two loans from the Caribbean Development Bank totalling \$3.6 million (US), it has been officially announced here. Some \$2.7 million is allocated for expansion of and improvement to electricity services. The money will provide for installation of a 2.7-megawatt diesel generating unit, capable of burning both light distillate and heavy fuel. This loan will also be used to rehabilitate the hydroelectric power station in the town of Soufriere and improve the efficiency and output of generating units in the Union and Vieux Fort power stations. The second loan will provide \$951,000 (US) to the National Development Corporation to provide factory space for the Bisee, Dennery and Vieux Fort Industrial Estates. [Text]
[Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 May 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/308

CONTRADICTION REPORTS OUT ON STATUS OF JOSHUA, PPP

Announcement of Party's Demise

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 May 82 p 1

[Text]

KINGSTOWN St. Vincent Friday (CANA) — There are conflicting reports here about the state of the island's oldest political group, the people's Political Party (PPP).

Last week, veteran politician Ebenezer Joshua, once Chief Minister and later Deputy Premier of the country, issued a signed statement announcing that the party of which he was once leader, had been dissolved, and called on the party's supporters to shift allegiance to Opposition leader Randolph Russell's Progressive Democratic Party (PDP).

Now the PPP's acting chairman, Emmanuel F. Adams, has denied that the party has been disbanded, claiming that the PPP was very much alive and functioning.

Mr. Adams said he found it strange that Mr. Joshua could have issued the statement announcing the demise of the PPP when in fact Mr. Joshua

had stepped down as leader of the party two years ago handing over leadership to Clive Tannis, a former Minister of Communications, Works and Labour here.

Mr. Adams explained that as far as he was aware, the PPP's executive had not taken any decision to wind up the party, pledged support to Mr. Russell's POP, nor had there been any dialogue between the PPP and Mr. Russell on the question of a merger.

In June, 1980, the PPP issued a statement saying that

Mr. Joshua had resigned as President and political leader of the party, with Mr. Tannis, then first vice-President automatically becoming President and leader.

Soon after that statement, Mr. Joshua himself confirmed that he had decided to step down in favour of Tannis after 29 years in the political arena.

Mr. Tannis is presently out of the state, and Mr. Joshua could not be contacted for comment

Party Chairman's Denial

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 May 82 p 3

[Text]

In a brief notice Mr. E.T. Joshua, President and Founder of the People's Political Party (PPP) has announced the demise of his party and appealed to his friends and supporters to give their allegiance to the Progressive Democratic Party led by Leader of the Opposition R.B. Russell.

CSO: 3025/317

EDITORIAL LAMENTS KLAN ACTIONS THAT DAMAGE U.S. IMAGE

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 May 82 p 4

[Text]

Last week it was there again in a documentary repeated by C.B.C. by 'special request'. A horrible picture of the prejudice, cruelty and insensitivity that pockets of Americans are allowed to perpetrate on a defenceless minority!

Yes, we said defenceless minority; and there lies the crux of the sad story. Imagine the strongest country in the world, which boasts the most democratic written constitution in the world, which is the seat of opportunity, the haven for persecuted aliens, allowing the practice of persecution of its own citizens, within its own borders! For this is what the Ku Klux Klan is all about!

The documentary shown by C.B.C. tv last week highlighted the depravity and ruthlessness practised against black Americans by the Klan. What the Ku Klux Klan perpetrates is as monstrous in intent and more violent in action than South African type apartheid. The difference of course is that in South Africa apartheid is a policy of government, while in the USA the Ku Klux Klan has been 'outlawed' officially by government. It therefore leaves us doubly puzzled as to why these pockets of viciousness and racist perversion are allowed to exist.

Imagine people who have blinded a man or wounded innocent elderly women, for no reason but race, getting away with their iniquity in the law courts of the world's leading democracy! These examples of the conduct of the Klan were seen by all viewing Vincentians last week. What an image of Americans for their friends to take to bed!

In the face of these illustrations of the dastardly conduct of the Klansmen, it is hard to remember the struggle against discrimination by white Americans like Elinor Roosevelt and Robert Kennedy. Can it be expected that the memory of ex-Ambassador Sally Shelton's great sensitivity to justice and complete official and personal 'racelessness' of approach will blot out the pictures of the hooded demons who scatter blood and bereavement in their path?

Doesn't it matter to the Great American Nation which picture represents the US Image?

What manner of men and (regretably) women are these destroyers of human dignity and bodies?

As far as we can make out, apart from a great lack of sensitivity and compassion, the members of the Klan are inferior human beings, devoid of real personal development. They are still at the juvenile stage that seeks to find importance in play acting — the Grand Wizzard is an example of the grandiloquent name styles in which they revel.

It is also relevant to their situation of insecurity that the Klan gains its strength in times of economic depression. It is claimed that in 1961 it was far more powerful than in 1951.

We appeal to the authorities in the United States to give credence to their own Constitution and protect the democratic rights of all U.S. citizens — Black or White.

CSO: 3025/317

FAVORABLE BALANCE OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS RECORDED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 82 p 4

[Text]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO recorded a favourable balance of visible trade for the month of November 1981 when imported goods amounted to \$763 million while exports amounted to \$914 million — a balance of \$151 million.

This compares with November 1980 when imports amounted to \$451 million and exports of \$715 million, a favourable balance of \$264 million.

During January to November 1981, the country imported \$6,814 million worth of goods while total exports amounted to \$8,328 million of which \$7,996 represented domestic exports.

There was, therefore, a favourable balance of visible trade totalling \$1,514 million. Corresponding figures for 1980 show total imports being \$6,850 million and total exports \$8,858 million of which \$8,796 million were export of domestic produce.

For the period January to November 1981, the petroleum sector accounted for 37 per cent of total imports and 89 per cent of total exports. Excluding petroleum, imports amounted to \$4,307 million and exports \$899 million.

Principal commodities imported during January to November were cereal and

cereal preparations \$203 million; dairy products and eggs \$135 million, fruits and vegetables \$130 million and meat and meat preparations \$99 million.

This section accounted for 11.2 per cent of total imports compared with 9.4 per cent in 1980, according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO).

Major items of export were sugar and sugar preparations — \$76 million; coffee, tea, cocoa and spices — \$33 million; cereal and

cereal preparations — \$14 million; fruits and vegetables — 11 million — constituting 1.8 per cent of all exports.

Comparison of total imports for January to November in 1980 and 1981 showed that food and live animals increased by \$119 million, manufactured goods by \$78 million and crude materials by \$29 million.

However, imports of machinery and transport equipment decreased by \$179 million mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials by \$66 million and beverages and tobacco by \$81 million.

A comparison of total exports for the same periods showed that in 1981, machinery and transport equipment increased by \$22 million.

CONSULTATION ON PRODUCTIVITY MAKES REPORT, ELICITS COMMENT

Opposition Stand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 1

[Text] Opposition members of Parliament stayed away from yesterday's Consultation on National Productivity.

Leader of the Opposition, Rep. Basdeo Panday, denied that it was a "boycott" in a telephone conversation last night, but claimed that Opposition attendance would serve "no useful purpose."

He said: "We saw no significance in attending, having regard to the attitude of Government in Parliament last Friday in their "refusal" to debate the public utilities and the "high handed" arrogance in answering questions put to them in Parliament.

Mr Panday said that Government had indicated that they were not interested in providing the services for the people and they were interested merely in holding on to office, regardless of consequences.

"The Opposition has decided not to attend and not to take part," he said. However, an Opposition member would follow the procedure, he said.

Another reason, he said, was refusal of the Prime Minister to deal in a meaningful way with the question of corruption.

Mr Panday said that while the Opposition members forming the Alliance attended the first session and made serious presentations, the reports of the working committees have not dealt with the most serious question facing the country...which is workers' alienation in the productivity department.

The most important issue concerning the workers had not been dealt with and, this he said, was another reason for the Opposition keeping away from the Consultation.

He emphasised that it was not a boycott but there was no significance in attending. "It's just a public relations gimmick," he declared.

Chambers on Implementation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers has told the National Consultation on Productivity that he has been giving thought to how and what can be implemented from the recommendations of the resumed Consultation.

He has promised that before the Consultation ends he will make an announcement about this subject.

This promise was volunteered in response to a plea from prominent trade unionist and member of Group 2 of the Consultation Committees.

Mr John Nunez of the Employees Consultative Association had said to the conference, "Unless definite machinery is set up at the end of this Consultation (to implement useful recommendations) we would have wasted six days of precious time."

Mr Nunez stated that most of the ills described by the committee about the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC), for instance, were public knowledge and even the proposed ways of handling the transport crisis were familiar ideas to the nation, but the question now was whether or not the Government would set out to implement consensus or decisions of the Consultation.

Chambers- Wrap-Up

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers last night announced Government's intention to have a public examination of the public utilities. "There shall be no one man Government," he emphasised.

The system of examination has not yet been decided, but according to Mr Chambers, it will involve all sectors of the society; it would not be a consultation, he said.

Teams from the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat have already been invited with respect to the recent power outages and Mr Chambers announced that they would evaluate the answers given by Minister of Public Utilities and advise him and Government on the operational capabilities of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission.

His comments came when he wound up the second three-day session of the National Consultation on Productivity at the Chaguaramas Convention Centre late yesterday evening.

After reviewing the discussions over the past three days Mr Chambers assured that Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations of the Consultation would be swift and expeditious.

He said he was not prejudging how Cabinet would handle the recommendations but it had alternatives including appointment of its own implementations committee or embark on a system of priority rating.

They had already sent copies of all the working committee reports and recommendations to the Willie Demas Task Force, he said.

He proposed that the Consultation should not be terminated but that a 22-member council comprising the chairmen of the working groups, government, business and labour representatives from a National Productivity Council to watch the interest of the National Consultation on Productivity and, as a consequence of the work of the Council, the Consultation could be resumed at a later date.

The five-point terms of the reference of the Council for which he suggested that the chairman would be Dr Ralph Henry of the Labour Congress, include:

- To liaise with the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs and monitor the implementation of programmes and measures agreed by the Consultation...due attention being paid to Cabinets' action on the proposals;

- To identify constraints--human, financial and technical--which inhibit the implementation of the programmes for increasing productivity and make recommendations;

- To consult with government ministries and agencies and national economic organisations on a continuing basis aimed at keeping before the national the issue of productivity and its pivotal role in the developmental process.

- To formulate and propose strategies and measures not considered by the Consultation which in its view could have a positive impact on levels of productivity; and

- To keep him, as Chairman of the Consultation, informed of its findings and activities.

The Consultation was held over the past three days and seven reports were presented.

Prime Minister Chambers, in commenting on a recommendation for importing farm labour said that Cabinet had taken a decision not to import labour and after giving the reasons he said that he did not know whether the committee's report would persuade Cabinet to think otherwise.

On taxation, he said that he would relay to Cabinet the strength of the feelings on the recommendations of the National Fiscal Review Committee which were not yet implemented.

He observed that there were 52,000 civil servants and a very large majority of them worked very hard; the problem was not a question of attitude in relation to work, it was attitude generally.

Relating to the public utilities, he said he felt that it should be removed from the Consultation and the utilities brought up for public examination.

"Let the people come out," he said, "and it is perhaps in that type of framework we can embark upon an exchange with the citizenry and hopefully re-establish credibility."

Mr Chambers said that Government remained convinced to use the talent of the country wherever it emerged.

"I personally remain committed to the delegation of authority," he said, adding that ministers must be allowed to run their ministries.

"Those who perform will be to the credit of the government; those who don't will be so advised.

The Prime Minister emphasised that there would be no one-man government.

"We will continue to go about our business lawfully, legally and peacefully, giving everybody opportunity to achieve that," he said, and concluded: "We will like to continue dialogue with the population."

Alliance Complaint

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 18

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has been accused of ignoring proposals by the opposition to the National Consultation on Productivity.

Mr John Humphrey (ULF, St Augustine) said on Tuesday that the working committees on productivity had completely ignored the input by the Alliance, which, he said, had played its full part in the first phase of the consultations.

He noted that there had been neither acceptance nor rejection of the propositions by the Alliance, "for there is no mention."

Mr. Humphrey was making his contribution during discussion of Working Paper No. 2, and he noted that while there were several foreign models presented by the committee, no mention was made of the Alliance, despite the fact that its proposals were completely indigenous.

He added that meaningful participation by the Opposition to the consultations had been "frustrated", as it

appeared that the ultimate report of the consultation would come out of the working committees, and the recommendations of the Opposition had been bypassed.

SEEKING NEW ROLE

Mr. Humphrey added: "We are convinced that there will be no serious changes in the society, as a result of this productivity consultation."

In reviewing the proposals made by the Alliance, Mr. Humphrey said the Alliance was seeking a new role for the State, by initiating joint sector partnership, by investing a new capital, and adding to existing capital in a manner that would achieve a one-third share for the State, the workers and the private investor.

Mr. Humphrey said the Alliance endorsed the proposal that the State should set the example in establishing worker participation on State boards, but it did not draw

a distinction between the workers and their trade unions.

He added that the Alliance had recommended attracting the private sector through a tax incentive to adopt a similar position with its workers.

The Alliance, he said, had proposed that no tax should be exacted from the joint sector partnership, and that the State should accept as its revenue its share of profit that could result from its one-third share of capital.

He noted that at the beginning of the consultation, it had been indicated that representatives of the people would be involved in the discussions.

"We will continue our contributions through Parliament and elsewhere, and will struggle for meaningful change in the economic systems and in the institutions through which our country manages itself."

EDITORIAL FINDS NATION SEEKING TAX RELIEF

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

MR. FRANK RAMPERSAD, one of Government's leading economic spokesman, shocked the National Consultation on Productivity and the entire nation when he made his contrioution to the debate on the issue of taxation at the conference.

In essence, Mr. Rampersad declared that personal and company income taxes ought not to be cut, that the resulting disposable income may not be spent in the best interests of the nation.

We think he was wrong on both counts.

The entire nation, labour and management, businessman and housewife, professional and unskilled worker, little saver and share — hunter alike, public servant and stevedore, office clerk and cleaner, right across the map of our two-island state, people are screaming out for relief from the burden of taxation.

TAKE HOME PAY

Yesterday's news story about the public servant who wept when his expected \$20,000 backpay was slashed to just about \$6,000 in take home pay went home to the hearts of people across the land. That man's plight was not far different from the experience of many others less well-placed than he.

The Fiscal Review Committee and Group 3 of the National Consultation on Productivity committees solidly backed an FRC recommendation that the tax bands be widened and that personal income taxes be cut (by about 40 per cent in most instances) and urgent inquiry be instituted into the best way of modifying company taxation to permit adequate cash flow, reasonable profit yield, and the reserves required for replacement of capital stock.

Mr. Rampersad ignored all of this.

Using his normally persuasive rhetoric he developed his own definition of a tax model.

He adopted an aggregate concept of taxation and then truncated the Gross National Product (GNP) by excluding from consideration the petroleum sector.

From this sector, informed sources say, the Government derives about half its \$8,000 million Budget and that it was surprising that Mr. Rampersad should have based his taxation argument solely on the non-Petroleum sector of the economy.

Mr. Rampersad did something else.

He appeared to have made a sweeping assumption that every new dollar of extra income people receive would be spent in unwise consumption. We beg to disagree.

We think that a considerable amount of such income would be put by wage-earner into savings and investment, not conspicuous consumption.

The sensible manner in which sugar workers recently used their backpay and then policemen and other members of the public services is an indication of how our people have become oriented to profitable investment.

In such circumstances we think it is the business of the Government to trust the people, let them have the extra income, and see that avenues other than alluring opportunities for conspicuous and transient consumption are opened up.

To withhold the tax relief now ignores too many realities.

We agree with Mr. Gatcliffe that the present tax structure is counter-productive and Mr. Rampersad may well be doing the country harm by insisting that there is no real case made out for tax ease.

CSO: 3025/318

BANK OFFICIAL EXPLAINS STATUS OF LOCAL, CARICOM CURRENCY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 May 82 p 4

[Article by Leigh Richardson]

[Text]

ANYBODY in a Caricom country passing up Caricom travellers' cheques (CTCs) in favour of Trinidad and Tobago currency stands to lose his or her money, the Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Victor Bruce said on Friday.

The Central Bank is not taking in repatriated Trinidad and Tobago currency from anywhere.

Mr. Bruce was explaining that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's ban on repatriated national currency is in full force.

My question was prompted by the disclosures at the luncheon meeting hosted at the Trinidad Hilton by the Central Bank and the National Commercial Bank, as issuing authority and authorised agent, respectively of the Caricom Travellers' Cheques plan.

The plan is the result of agreement between the monetary authorities and central banks of the region. It was made necessary by the clear need to conserve the scarce resources of the region, especially foreign exchange.

The plan makes the TT dollar the denominated currency for operation but the final settlement between countries (which takes place every six months and

involves all trading not only travelling transactions) takes place in American dollars.

The plan thus reduces the use of scarce U.S. dollars since it does not involve across the counter purchases of U.S. dollars by individuals for regional travel.

Friday's question-and-answer luncheon meeting brought together dozens of banking, business, travel agency, and media personnel.

According to Mr. Andrew McEachrane, of the National Commercial Bank the meeting is the first of a series to be staged throughout the region as part of the continuing process of educating all sectors of business and ordinary citizens about the CTC's.

Since August 1980 when the plan was introduced, the aggregate sale of cheques touched \$36 million, of which \$25 million worth was brought by Trinidadians. Barbados was recipient of \$18 million of the outflow.

Complaints that in some countries people were refusing to accept the cheques have died down but there is no way yet of preventing holders of cheques from being ripped off by speculators who offer rates far below official rates of

exchange in any country.

Mr. McEachrane told questioners the only protection really is for the holders to deal only with commercial banks or the more prominent business houses for now, or as a last resort, with the monetary authorities in the countries where they encounter this kind of thing.

Since Caricom cheques are counted as foreign exchange, on return to Trinidad and Tobago any citizen holding such cheques are by law required to deposit them with banks.

Persons who lose CTC's can immediately get up to \$500 in refund from a bank, up to \$1,000 from the issuing authority.

Persons accepting Caricom cheques in Trinidad and Tobago should make the holders produce additional identification apart from the signatures on their cheques to give the acceptors protection against any illegal move, although the incidence (\$17,000 total) of forgery, for instance, was extremely small.

A couple of concerns of business folk were put at rest by Mr. Bruce and Mr. McEachrane who thought that where business people had come into innocent possession of cheques illicitly obtained by the tenderers would most probably suffer no loss.

FREEZE ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS PROPOSED, UNDER STUDY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 May 82 p 3

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Friday, (CANA) — The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is now studying a recommendation by a six-man committee to place a freeze on new government-to-government contracts, official sources said today.

Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Anthony Jacelon confirmed that the committee had compiled a report on the contracts issue but said he could give no details about the content.

The freeze is believed to be the major recommendation in the report which was handed over to Cabinet last Thursday by the government appointed committee.

The official said the freeze was being proposed pending fuller investigation into the effects of the contracts on the country's economy and well being.

The committee is chaired by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Lennox Ballah.

Ballah is assisted by head of the Political and Economic Division in the External

Affairs Ministry, Linston Comberbatch, Treasury Solicitor in the Ministry of Finance, Amelia Carrington, Professor Inibert of the University of the West Indies, Ainsley Tim Pow, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Resettlement and Lenny Farran, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works.

Four months ago, External Affairs Minister, Senator Basil Ince said a review of the contract arrangement was to be a priority for his administration.

He said that the government wanted to ensure against any adverse psychological reactions on the part of professionals and to see how it fitted into its development priorities.

"We would certainly not want people to negotiate contracts in areas which they have expertise but which are not priority to us", Mr. Ince was quoted as saying.

The policy of the government, he said, was to have contracts that would meet national objectives.

TOBAGO ASSEMBLY LEADER CHARGES GOVERNMENT WITH HARASSMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Text] Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr A.N.R. Robinson, claimed yesterday that there was a deliberate campaign by the Central Government Administration against the Tobago House of Assembly and Tobago.

He charged that there was a pattern of harassment and provocation but that the House of Assembly had kept quiet and would not allow itself to be provoked into an intemperate act.

Mr Robinson was speaking at a Press conference in Port of Spain to explain the situation in Tobago.

Not Acknowledged

Without elaborating after explaining some of what he termed were the problems experienced in dealings with Central Government, Mr Robinson said that the first step in efforts to remedy the situation was exposure through the media and the next step would be measures of "self help" which the people of Tobago would take to ensure that the will of the people was accepted.

Mr Robinson also said he had written Prime Minister George Chambers in December last year and again in January requesting meetings with him, but had not so far received "even an acknowledgement."

He said that under the Tobago House of Assembly Act the obligation was fairly and squarely on the Minister of Finance to consult the Tobago House of Assembly on matters of national importance, but that the Prime Minister who is the Minister of Finance, had not only failed to consult the House of Assembly but has failed to reply.

Must be Stopped

Mr Robinson claimed that the Assembly was complying with the Tobago House of Assembly Act but that the Central Government was not doing so.

As an example of what called the campaign of harassment and provocation, Mr Robinson referred to Fort George and the setting up of a psychiatric clinic there.

He said the Assembly had not approved the use of the old wireless building at the Fort for use as a psychiatric clinic but despite objections Central Government still going ahead with plans.

"It is our firm view in the House of Assembly that they have got to be stopped and stopped now," Mr Robinson said.

CSO: 3025/318

'GUARDIAN' TO CHAMBERS: ELECTRICITY BOARD MUST GO

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 16 May 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER GEORGE CHAMBERS can do the nation a great favour.

He can put its most obvious wrong right.

He can turn out of office the Blackout Gang of Seven, otherwise known as the chairman and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission Board. The nation has had enough.

It is plain that the present management of the Commission knows little about how to run such an important enterprise, is not about to learn and has now added painful injury to abject insult with a statement that the Commission is unable to give any assurance of improved supply.

We have really "gone through" to quote the language of the now-generation.

After three or four weeks of the most exasperating variety of blackouts, the Commission does not even hold out the hope that it can do better.

In any other country such an admission would be accompanied by offering of resignations. In our country the bunglers continue in office and the country continues to lose countless millions of dollars in terms of production and dollars and cents in terms of domestic expense.

Mr. Chambers has called on the Minister of Public Utilities to investigate and report by the end of the month.

What happens in the meantime?

Mr. Chambers — unlike Mr. Eckstein, the Utilities Minister who has been in office barely six months — has been in the Government for more than 15 years and we suspect he knows a great deal about the T&TEC. He must have been familiar with the Commission and all its misery-provoking ineptitude and the fearsome cost of keeping it blundering along.

NOT ENOUGH

Mr. Chambers cannot expect the country to accept that he has not been aware of the problem before. The Commission's antics have been going on for a long time and any government worth its salt would have taken drastic action by now.

Calling on the Board for explanation of this blackout, that outage, and the other interrupted supply, whatever the synonym, is not the solution to offset the amazing incompetence of the Board to adopt sound preventive measures, apply quick corrective measures, and generally run things the way we expect any civilised modern business enterprise to be managed.

Basically, the fault must lie with one or more of these inputs: management, manpower, maintenance, and the Commission's generating system.

The problems generated by any one or more of these inputs must be dealt with now, frankly, and efficiently. We go as far as stating that we think the management is seriously inadequate and ought to be removed at once.

NO CONFIDENCE

Last Sunday this newspaper called loudly for the ouster of the T&TEC chairman, Prof. Kenneth Julien. Since then the situation has incredibly worsened, a fact recognised publicly by the Prime Minister.

The first step in the necessary administrative and technical overhaul is the removal of the Board in whom we state categorically that we have absolutely no confidence.

Frankly, we doubt whether a similarly-constituted Board will in a public sector environment matrix solve the problem.

It seems to us that T&TEC is the nation's number one candidate for divestment to private enterprise, even if it means any of one of these: joint venture State-private enterprise with the State the prominent minority share holder, outright sale to competent entrepreneurs, longterm lease franchise to a proved industrial entity, or any other feasible-appearing alternative.

T&TEC just has to go — if a brighter future is to come for this country.

The cost of maintaining the present set-up will prove more and more prohibitive with the passage of time and we shall eventually have to get rid of it anyhow in desperation. If later, why not now?

TTEC'S JULIEN DEFENDS GOVERNMENT IN EXPLAINING POWER OUTAGES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 1

[Text] Professor Dr Ken Julien, Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, has spoken out about problems facing the Commission and has claimed a ten percent reduction in electrical consumption would prevent load shedding.

"We are begging customers to reduce consumption," he told the National Consultation on Productivity yesterday, "and if that could be done we could almost guarantee that load shedding would be on schedule and, indeed, minimised.

Dr Julien absolved Government of any blame for TTEC's problems, explaining that TTEC operated with a high degree of autonomy. He said: "Any complaints legitimately levelled against us we have to accept responsibility for.

"We can't say everything is normal. It is not," he said. TTEC engineers spent a nervous weekend...because of "muck" in the natural gas supply, the T&TEC chairman said. He pointed out that management and personnel were working on a round-the-clock basis to normalise the situation.

In a statement to the Consultation, Dr Julien said that T&TEC was not trying to defend itself or otherwise..." there have been serious problems and when we appeal for reduction in consumption it is not trying to save face it is as a result of technical problems."

Dr Julien's comments came after the report of the working committee, headed by Dr Selwyn Ryan, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission which dealt with production losses due to the utilities and transport system has been presented and Mr Emile de La Grenade, Chief Executive Officer of the Employer Consultative Association had drawn attention to the outages and problems the country experienced over the past few weeks due to electricity problems.

Prime Minister George Chambers, who chaired the Consultation which resumed at the Chaguaramas Convention Centre yesterday, checked whether Chairman of the Utilities were present and shortly after "recognised" Dr Julien.

In a wide-ranging explanation, mainly answering issues raised by the Association of Business Industrial and Commercial Organisations of Trinidad and Tobago (ABICOTT), Dr Julien said he agreed that in planning outages all concerned should be advised.

But he went on to elaborate and gave as problems the Commission's inability to have Press statements about releases on time and the fact that they had to be guided by the security authorities in announcements relating to outages.

Dr Julien said that as far as planned outages were concerned, there were usually advanced notification in the newspapers and these were normally maintenance. But with forced outages there were constraints in relation to announcements about outages.

"One of the problems over the past few weeks has been the difficulty in getting information to the public in timely fashion," he said, adding that space was not available in newspapers for two or three days and while they resorted to spot radio announcements it was not an easy situation.

Still relating to announcements about outages, Dr Julien said: "We have to be guided by the overall security of the country." He added that while they could make announcements about overall shedding they would prefer not to be specific about the times and areas in which specific load shedding would take place.

There were constraints which caused more extensive load shedding in certain areas rather than others, he said.

Dr Julien admitted that the load pattern in Trinidad and Tobago was sometimes unpredictable. A load demand might grow suddenly and at that point in time the engineer has to take a responsible decision whether to keep the sub-station longer or shorter.

"It is for this reason that we are seeking a curb on consumption and begging customers to reduce consumption," he said.

Dr Julien said that three to four months ago T&TEC held discussions with ABICOTT and had set up a system to communicate rapidly whenever there were problems.

ABICOTT had attempted to co-operate, he said, but the system had not been formally structured.

"We have to convince people that when we appeal for reduction in consumption it is not trying to save face, it is a real technical problem.

Relating to standby generators, Dr Julien explained that T&TEC was not the final authority for approval.

There were guidelines for granting standby generators, he said; TTEC recommended approval for an average of about ten every month, but Dr Julien warned that there could be dangers in operating standby generators. We know

of at least one death and serious injury...in that when TTEC electricity returns, unless there were safeguard in the system then there could be serious damage to machines and persons."

On the overall situation relating to TTEC operations relating to outages, he said at this point in time there were three units operationa, but TTEC continued to experience problems in the quality of gas from National Gas Company.

"That is why we can't say everything is normal. It is not. Dr Julien promised that in two weeks the fourth unit could be back in operation.

Referring to the announcement of "return to normal by August," Dr Julien said the August schedule was to replace the transformer burnt out at Barataria.

"We are replacing the burnt out transformer with one double size, Supply normally takes 18 months and we have used our influence to improve the time by 14 months.

"We are conscious of the difficulties and inconvenience and loss. Our management and personnel are on a 24-hour basis trying to bring back the operations to some normalcy," he said.

Dr Julien said that with the exception of the financial situation where TTEC had to relate to the Minister of Finance, "I wish to state the TTEC does operate with a high degree of autonomy. We have no restrictions on us in relation to buying and hiring and firing.

"We have never been under the Central Board, and so far as problems of TTEC...any complaints legitimately levelled against us we have to accept responsibility for most of them."

CSO: 3025/309

AMMONIA FERTILIZER PLANT CLOSED DUE TO LACK OF GAS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 May 82 p 4

[Text]

FERTILISERS of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (Fertrin) has shut down one of its two ammonia plants because of the inavailability of gas.

The company said yesterday that its 02 Unit was shut down on April 3, and it is expected to be back on stream by mid June, according to the supplier of gas, the National Gas Company.

Shut-down of the ammonia

unit is reported to be affecting exports. However, it could not be ascertained to what extent exports have been hit. It is understood that the National Gas Company gets its supplies for distribution from Amoco.

Fertrin has two ammonia units designed to produce 1,044 tonnes per day each. They are called 01 and 02 units.

The 01 Unit went into production on October 9, 1981. It produced 68,000 tonnes in 1981, and 84,000 tonnes this year to

date. Current production rate is 1,110 per day, or about 106 per cent design rate.

The 02 Unit was mechanically completed in late 1981, but start up was delayed by water shortages, and gas limitations, it was stated. Gas was available for a short period in March, and about 250 tonnes of ammonia was produced.

The unit was shutdown on April 3, to await the availability of gas for start-up. The company expects an increase in its allocation about mid-year, according to National Gas, it was stated.

The plant has a storage for 60,000 tonnes ammonia and ship-loading facilities designed to load 1,000 per hour. An Italian Ammonia vessel, the Luigi Lagrange is at Savonette Pier No 1 loading a cargo of 19,500 tonnes for export to Fertrin customers in England, France and Portugal, said a company statement.

BRIEFS

KEROSENE SHORTAGE--A shortage of kerosene has hit several areas in the country. Over the past two weeks, consumers have complained to the "Trinidad Guardian" that they have been experiencing difficulties in getting the commodity to their homes. In several areas, residents stated that their local suppliers have been without "pitch oil" for some time and that even the nearby service stations reported low supplies. One resident from the Cocorite area said that following the spate of outages over the past few weeks, most suppliers in his area had "run out" because of the increased demand for the commodity for lamps as well as for cooking purposes. Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company which supplies kerosene to the country stated last week that the company had "more than adequate stocks" of the commodity at its Sea Lots plant. He also stated that steps were being taken by NP to provide stations who do not at present offer kerosene for sale with temporary facilities, thereby expanding the company's distribution system. It was pointed out that with the introduction of LPG gas, the demand for kerosene decreased. A shortfall in the supply of kerosene to consumers may have been due to a distribution problem faced by "peddlers" who supply the rural areas with the commodity. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 4]

PETROLEUM SALES--Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company last year supplied the consumers with 88 million litres of motor gasoline. This was stated by Mr Richard Toby, chairman of the company, at the opening of a lubrication training course at Farrel House, San Fernando, on Thursday. Mr Toby said that this represented a 7.2 percent increase over the previous year. He also noted that NP supplied 88 million pounds of LPG gas, an increase of 8.6 percent over the previous year. In addition, 32.6 million litres of aviation fuel was marketed, an increase of 31.8 percent over the previous year and sales of agricultural and industrial chemicals were valued at last year at \$4.8 million, a 14 percent increase. On the sale of lubricating oils and grease, Mr Toby said that these had been "substantial." However, the company is making efforts to improve the volume of sales of lubricants and has embarked upon measures to expand production. These include: The introduction of a two shift system at the company's Lube Oil Blending plant; investigating the feasibility of blending a wider range of lubricating oils including premium grades and conducting market surveys in respect of the purchase of bottle filling equipment to increase the availability of the products. In presenting the plans of the company, Mr Toby

noted that NP was concerned with the problem of human resource development in the country. It was for this reason that the company has been sponsoring courses to update the skills of employees in the company, he said. Taking part in the seminar were Trintoc, Caroni (1975) Ltd., and Fertrin, representing the petroleum, agricultural and petrochemical fields. Mr Toby also said that the performance of the company over the past year showed the viability of the company and provided a social service to the country. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 82 p 4]

LIVESTOCK COMPANY--Livestock farmers have formed their own business company, the Trinidad and Tobago Livestock Association Ltd., with the aim of servicing the livestock industry. Most of the shareholders come from the Trinidad and Tobago Livestock Association, formerly the National Dairy Farmer's Association. Ram Madho is the Managing Director, Bhudeo Sirridath, Director/Treasurer, with Miss Joyce Francis, secretary and Norman Girwar as a company adviser. After the formation of the company earlier this month, Mr Madho said its main purpose was to supply feed, fertilisers, machinery and equipment to livestock farmers. It would also help with the preparation of pastures for dairy farms. An early project already underway is a feasibility survey on the development of unused state lands into livestock farms. The survey has been prompted by the knowledge that much of the state lands are into livestock farms. The survey has been prompted by the knowledge that much of the state lands are unsuitable for crop farming but could comfortably accommodate pasture grasses for feeding livestock. Mr Madho also disclosed that the company has written the Ministry of Agriculture asking for a discussion on a price formula for pork, piglets and milk. Apart from the thriving poultry industry most of the other areas of livestock production have been weak in recent years, a position the livestock company wants to reverse. From a peak of 8.3 million kilos (kilograms) of milk sold in 1972 the dairy industry has declined to about 5 million kilos in 1981. The very high prices for fresh pork, beef and goat have been a reflection of the short supply with problems like praedial larceny, and difficulties with pasture grasses and animal feed. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 82 p 4]

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ACTIVITY--The National Alliance comprising the United Labour Front, the Democratic Action Congress and the Tapia House Movement is to explore ways and means of deepening the collaboration between its three constituent units. The decision was taken at a meeting in Scarborough Tobago on Sunday of the three party leaders--Mr Basdeo Panday of the ULF, Mr Lloyd Best of Tapia and Mr A.N.R. Robinson of DAC. The leaders reviewed agreements reached by the joint executives of the Alliance at a meeting on May 6. According to a release, the Alliance will now seek radio and television time on Radio 610 and TTT on terms settled before the General Elections last November when the three parties were regarded as one for the purposes of allocation and use of official broadcast time. The joint executives will resume deliberations at the Rienzi Complex tomorrow. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 82 p 6]

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